

# Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church

*“Our 93<sup>rd</sup> Year”*

July 5, 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.

# Sixth 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**

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

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**Worship Note:** *We will be using the "Bread of Life" Communion setting (No. 5) from the blue "With One Voice" (WOV) through the middle of July. The Hymns will continue to be from "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" (ELW).*

## **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.*

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

## **Kyrie - WOV page 28**

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

## **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 – WOV page 29**

*"Glory to God in the Highest."*

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

*Please respond Amen.*

*\*Please be seated for the Readings*

### **First Reading**

Zechariah 9:9-12 – Printed in “*Today’s Readings*” Insert  
*Zechariah speaks to a discouraged community returning from exile in Babylon to a homeland in ruins. Into that disappointment, the prophet calls them to rejoice, promising that God will send a humble king—the messianic ruler—who will bring universal peace and “restore double” what they have lost. Although the people did not see this promise fulfilled in an earthly or immediate way, it nevertheless sustained their hope and identity. The Gospels of Matthew and John present Jesus Christ as the surprising and counterintuitive fulfillment of this prophecy. His humble entry into Jerusalem reframes power itself, revealing how God keeps promises in ways that exceed human expectation.*

Synopsis by Rev. Dr. Steven C. Kuhl

### **Psalmody**

Psalm 145:8-14 - “*Today’s Readings*” Insert

*The psalm offers a sweeping yet tender portrait of God, whose majesty and compassion hold the world together. The psalmist proclaims God’s everlasting kingdom and enduring dominion, reminding us that divine power is never detached or indifferent. He also insists that this all-powerful God is a merciful God—slow to anger, rich in steadfast love, and universally good in all his works. That same mercy is shown in God’s faithfulness to uphold all who are bowed down. Together, these verses assure God’s people that the One who reigns over all creation also draws near to sustain the vulnerable.*

Synopsis by Rev. Dr. Steven C. Kuhl

*Please join in chanting the Psalm responsively  
using tone 8.*

## Epistle Reading

Romans 7:15-25a –Printed in “Today’s Readings” Insert.  
*Paul illustrates the enslaving power of sin by describing his own inner conflict, confessing that he often fails to do the good he desires and instead does the very things he hates. This struggle reveals that sin operates within him as a kind of “law,” an entrenched power that distorts his will and exposes his inability to fulfill God’s commands. Through the law of God, Paul recognizes what is good, but through that same law he also recognizes his incapacity to achieve it, showing that sin remains the animating force at work in his flesh. Finally, in a cry of desperation, he asks who can rescue him from this bondage, and he answers with confidence: deliverance comes through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Synopsis by Rev. Dr. Steven C. Kuhl

## Gospel Acclamation – WOV page 31

*“Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?”*

*\*Please stand if able.*

## Gospel Reading

The Gospel is announced: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

*Jesus compares the religious authorities of “this generation” to fickle children who resist both John’s call to repentance and his own invitation to mercy. John’s asceticism leads them to accuse him of having a demon, while Jesus’s table fellowship with tax collectors and sinners earns him charges of being a glutton and drunkard—revealing their blindness to their own need for divine mercy. Ironically, Jesus praises the Father for hiding the truth from those who consider themselves wise and revealing it instead to “infants,” those without pretension. These humble ones perceive what the powerful cannot. In contrast to the burden-givers, Jesus offers rest by inviting all to take his yoke and find life through the One who leads from repentance to forgiveness and from death into life.*

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**

Give Me Jesus – ELW No. 770

Tune: GIVE ME JESUS

*Please stand for the final verse.*

**Profession of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed – WOV page 33

**Prayers of the People**

P: God of Grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**Sharing of Peace**

*Please be seated following the 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 trustworthy 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: 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**

WOV page 36 *Spoken*

**Holy, Holy, Holy –** WOVS page 36  
**Eucharistic Prayer XI – ELW page 69**  
*Spoken Final Amen*

## Lord's Prayer and Lamb of God – WOV page 39

### **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**

“Give Me Jesus” – African American Spiritual arranged by  
Richard Billingham

### **Post Communion Canticle – WOV page 40**

*“Thankful hearts and voices raise;”*

*\*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**

God Bless Our Native Land – ELW No. 891  
Tune: NATIONAL ANTHEM

## **Dismissal**

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

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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*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 Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> following worship. All members of Nativity are invited to attend Church Council meetings.

Announcing the Return of an Old Nativity Favorite. **"Lemonade on the Lawn"** returns next Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup> following worship. Fresh Squeezed Lemonade!!! Please bring a salty or savory snack to share and invite friends and neighbors to join us.

**Sewing Club** - Great News! The Sewing Club has extended their time with us. They're working other 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 31<sup>st</sup> – 2:00 PM

**A Nativity Christmas**  
Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – 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?

Nativity Lutheran Church is **pet friendly**; you are invited to bring your leashed service or companion animal to all Nativity Worship Services or Events.

### **This Week's Calendar**

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

TODAY:	7/5	<b>Pentecost VI -USA 250<sup>th</sup></b> 11:00 AM "S" Nativity Worship Service with Communion
Tuesday:	7/7	12:00 PM "G" S.A. 12-step 5-8 PM "G" Sewing Club
Wednesday:	7/8	9:00 AM "UC" Quilters 8:00 PM A.A. Al-Anon
Friday:	7/10	12:00 PM "G" S.A. 12-step
Saturday	7/11	3:30 PM "S" Organ Lesson
Sunday:	7/12	<b>Pentecost VII</b> 11:00 AM "S" Nativity Worship/Com. 12:15 PM <b>Lemonade on the Lawn</b>

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> – 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 11<sup>th</sup> - 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.

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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.

**Nativity Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
May 17th, 2026**

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

**Present:** Jim Ribnek, Dennis Wolfgang, Jill Mickelson, Nicole DeBack, Bob Sauer

**Minutes:** Accepted as written by Unanimous consent

**Agenda:** Open for additions. Accepted as written

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

**Old Business**

1. Outreach Ideas
  - a. Sewing Club - there were two new members to the group
  2. Lemonade on the lawn-confirm dates and volunteers
  3. Rummage Sale - We will pick a date for the Sale at the next meeting
  4. Pet Blessing - No new updates
  5. Roofing quote - still collecting quotes

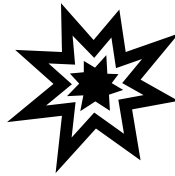
**New Business**

1. Lawn Mower - New one is working great
2. Insurance - In Process

**Committee Reports:**

1. Property Planning –
  - a. Fire Inspection
    - i. Boiler room venting - setting up a time for Greg and Hugo IN PROCESS
    - ii. Fire Exit door in the Sunday School COMPLETED
  - b. Outside Clean up (Multiple Dates will be required) May 30 th 9:00am
    - i. Massive Brush cleaning
      1. Massive brush cleaning Shrub by office and hill
      2. Front Garden - below sign
      3. Lower Yews around front so dedication plaque can be seen
    - ii. Concrete Work
      1. Diamonds on 69th Street walk- Bids being accepted for comparison
      2. Corners of Stairs

- c. Inside clean up (Multiple dates will be required)
  - i. Sanctuary - Dust, polish pews, windows, Altar Area
  - ii. Goetz Hall
    - 1. Floors
    - 2. Kitchen, Windows, Closets, Boiler Room, and Curtains
  - iii. Offices - General Cleaning, remove wedding materials or store better
  - iv. Upper meeting room- General cleaning and organizing
  - v. New Sign consulting with local and online vendors - IN PROCESS
  - d. New Library for the front, rehab for the 69th Street entrance
  - 2. Music and Worship - Pentecost Decorating - We will do a little after the meeting today
  - 3. Concerts= No new updates
- Adjournment: Nicole MM, Dennis MS, MC  
Next meeting : 6/28/26  
Closing: Lord's Prayer



# **Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Traditional Worship Service Sundays at 11:00 AM**

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Wauwatosa, WI 53213

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