

Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church

“Our 92nd Year”

December 24, 2025 – 5:30 P.M.



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.

Nativity Of Our Lord

Christmas Eve

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

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Prelude

Two Chorale Preludes Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau
VOM HIMMEL HOCH - "From Heaven Above"

O Hail this Brightest Day- setting by Johann Sebastian Bach
DER TAG, DER IST SO FREUDENREICH

Yuletide Echoes William Hodson

Prelude on "In Dulci Jubilo" Johann Sebastian Bach

Prelude on "In Dulci Jubilo" Paul Manz

I Wonder as I Wander Appalachian Carol

arranged by John Jacob Niles and Lewis Henry Horton

"What Is This Lovely Fragrance" setting by Paul Manz
(Old French Carol)

Proclamation of Christmas

The announcement of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord from the Roman Martyrology draws upon Sacred Scripture to declare in a formal way the birth of Christ. It begins with creation and relates the birth of the Lord to the major events and personages of sacred and secular history. The particular events contained in the announcement help pastorally to situate the birth of Jesus in the context of salvation history.

Processional Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful - ELW No. 283

Tune: *ADESTE FIDELES*

**Please Stand and Sing.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C: Amen.

Blessing of the Christmas Tree

P: God our Creator, we praise you for this Christmas tree. It is a sign of your everlasting, evergreen presence. It is a sign of the reign of heaven, sheltering the creatures of the earth under its open arms. It is a sign of the cross, shining with the light of your grace and mercy.

Gracious God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. Send us your Son, the tender shoot of Jesse, who brings us light and life.

May all who stand in its light eagerly welcome the true light which never fades. We ask this through Christ our Lord. C: Amen.

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, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you. † Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: Amen.

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Kyrie and Hymn of Praise

Lord, Have Mercy & Glory Be To God On High
St. James Christmas Service Insert

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The congregation is seated.*

Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

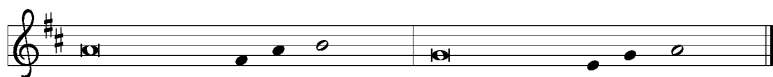
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Response: Thanks Be to God

Christmas Eve Psalm 96

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)

Please join in chanting responsively using tone 1.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- 1 Sing to the Lord | a new song;
sing to the Lord, | all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
- 3 Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.

**6 Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.

**8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord.**

9 Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.

**10 Tell it out among the nations: “The | Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot
be moved will judge the peo- | ples with equity.”**

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be
joyful and all that | is therein.

**12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at
your com- | ing, O Lord,
for you come to | judge the earth.**

**13 You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.**

Epistle Reading – Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God’s grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior’s final appearance.

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Response: **Thanks Be to God**

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia – ELW No. 174

**Please Stand and Sing.*

Gospel Reading

The Gospel is announced: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

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

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

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

Carol Response to the Gospel

Hark! The herald Angels Sing – ELW No. 270

Tune: MENDELSSOHN

Please be seated following the singing of the carol.

Blessing of the Creche

The children are invited to come forward

P: Tonight we celebrate in quiet wonder the mystery of Christmas: God sending his Son Jesus into the world as a baby, born of Mary, to be our Savior. Note the packaging. He is wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, within a stable, surrounded by his earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, a host of animals, and some shepherds. Soon they will be followed by wisemen from the East. What a scene God has given to us. So let us thank and blessing God for this marvelous scene by which God has blessed us.

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. With Mary and Joseph, with angels and shepherds, and with the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us, and fill us with joy and wonder as we look upon this manger scene. May Jesus be born in our lives, that we might share his love with all the world, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever and ever.

C: Amen.

Children's Message

Devotional Hymn

Away in a Manger – ELW No. 277

Tune: AWAY IN A MANGER

Christmas Sermon

Hymn of the Day

O Little Town of Bethlehem - ELW No. 279

Tune: ST. LOUIS

**Please stand for the final verse.*

The Nicene Creed

ELW Page 104

Prayers for Christmas Eve

Response: Your mercy is great.

**The congregation is seated.*

Announcements and Sharing of Peace

Offering and Offering Music

Gesù Bambino

Pietro A. Yon

“The Infant Jesus”

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

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

**Please stand if able.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Preface Dialogue - ELW page 107

Sung

Proper Preface for Christmas

Holy, Holy, Holy

St. James Christmas Service Insert

Eucharistic Prayer III – ELW page 110

Spoken Responses

Lord's Prayer – ELW page 112

Lamb of God

St. James Christmas Service Insert

Distribution

Invitation To Communion

God is now in flesh appearing.

Come to the feast of joy!

All are Welcome to receive the Lord's Meal at His table.

Please come forward to the Communion Rail.

Communion Music

Cantique de Noël (O Holy Night)

Adolphe Adam arranged by Carl Deis

Prayer after Communion

P: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

Communion Meditation

Silent Night, Holy Night! – ELW 281

Tune: STILLE NACHT

Stuart Mitchell will sing the first verse in German followed by the congregation singing the three English verses.

Benediction

**Please stand if able.*

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, + bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World – ELW 267

Tune: ANTIOCH

Dismissal

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God's people on earth!

P: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Hallelujah Chorus - George Frideric Handel
from "Messiah"

Serving This Evening

Rev. Dr. Steven C. Kuhl - Presiding Minister

James Ribnek, III – Lector/Reader

Robert Stuart Mitchell – Cantor/Soloist

Dennis Jon Wolfgang – Organist

Nativity's Leadership

James Ribnek, III – President

Dr. Robert Saur – Vice President

Jill Mickelson – Treasurer

Nicole DeBack – Secretary

Church Council Members at Large

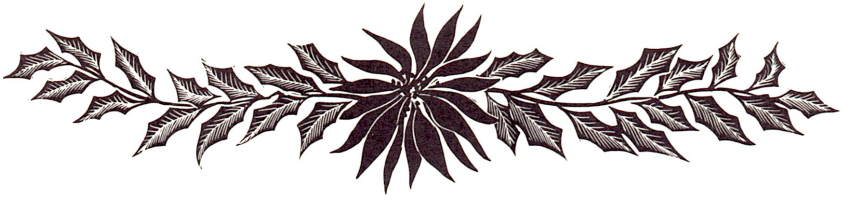
Sandra Larson, Dennis Jon Wolfgang

Please take your bulletin with you as you leave but please return the “St. James Christmas Service” insert to the Narthex so that it may be used in future services.

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Christmas Poinsettias

Steven and Kelly Kuhl

*One Poinsettia in Memory of
Ray and Vernice Kuhl*

*One Poinsettia in Memory of
Richard and Sylvia Rindt*

James and Sandra Larson

*One Poinsettia in Memory of
Marilyn and Dick Turtenwald*

James Ribnek, III

*One Poinsettia in Memory of
James, Jr. and Lillian Ribnek*

*One Poinsettia in Memory of
Frank and Rose Ginzer*

*One Poinsettia in Memory of
James and Caroline Ribnek, Sr.*

*One Poinsettia in Honor of
Jeff and Jill Mickelson,*

Robert G. Saur, II

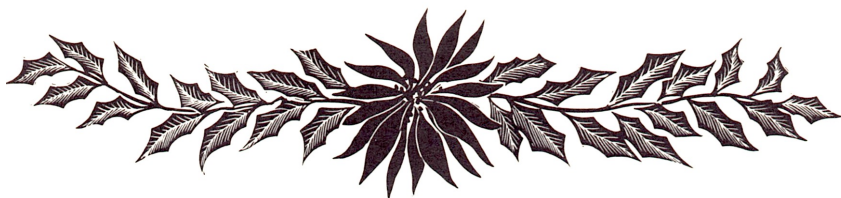
*One Poinsettia in Memory of
Robert, Sr. and Betty Saur
Gerry and Helen Burress*

Dennis Jon Wolfgang

*One Poinsettia in Memory of His Parents
Leonard and Irone Wolfgang*

*One Poinsettia in Memory of Susan Klister
and Dominic Joseph Radanovich*

*One Poinsettia in Memory of
George and Dora Fraedrich
Otto and Irene 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, Jennifer Wigand and Rev. Dean Willich. If you know of individuals that need to be added to or taken off the list please let any Council Member know.

The next **Nativity Church Council** is Sunday January 11th following worship. We will be finalizing the 2026 church budget. All members of Nativity are invited to attend Church Council meetings.

Mark you calendars for Sunday January 25th, we will hold our **Annual Meeting** following worship. If you need to submit an **Annual Report** please have it completed by January 11th.

A Nativity Christmas

Mark your calendars for Saturday December 27th 2:00 PM for our Nativity Christmas Concert. Tenor Stuart Mitchell and organist Dennis Jon Wolfgang perform music of the season. Pastor Steve will narrate “A Carol Nativity” by Alfred V. Fedak with audience sing-a-long of the carols.

We have added a third performer to the concert; a very talented young man who is an incredible flute and piccolo player. Coffee, punch and Christmas Cookies follow in Goetz Fellowship Hall.

Mark your calendars for the First Sunday after Christmas, December 28th, we will again hold our very popular Service of **Lessons and Carols** with **Communion** at our normal 11 AM worship time.

A Nativity Christmas Concert

Saturday December 27th 2:00 PM

A Nativity Christmas Concert with Robert Stuart Mitchell,
Zackary Munoz and Dennis Jon Wolfgang

Sunday, December 28th 11:00 AM – A Beautiful Service of
Lessons and Carols with Communion

Sunday, January 25th – Nativity Annual Meeting
following worship.

Wednesday, February 18th Ash Wednesday

12 Noon Non-Communion Worship Service with Imposition
of Ashes

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.





Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Traditional Worship Service

Sundays at 11:00 AM

6905 West Bluemound Road

Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Office: 414-476-1853

www.nativitylutheran.us

Email: nativity-lutheran@outlook.com

Member: Bluemound Heights Neighborhood Association