

Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church

“Our 93rd Year”

May 17, 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.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Dean A. Willich

Lector/Reader: Arlene Renard

Minister of Music: Dennis Jon Wolfgang

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

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Prelude

Two Settings of "All Glory Be To God On High"

ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH SEI EHR

I. Johann Pachelbel

II. Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

"Let the Bright Seraphim" – George Friderick Handel

From SAMSON Arranged by James Pehtel

Welcome and Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

P: Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*). Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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Gathering Hymn

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing! – ELW No. 393

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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.

Kyrie – ELW page 147

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*

First Reading

***The Paschal Candle will be extinguished after
verse 9 of the reading from Acts.***

Acts 1:6-14 – “Today’s Readings” Insert

Today’s reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord’s conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

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Psalmody

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35- “Today’s Readings” Insert

Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds. (Ps. 68:4)

Please join in chanting the Psalm in unison using tone 6.

Epistle Reading

I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 – “Today’s Readings” Insert.

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil

when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

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Gospel Acclamation – ELW page 151

“Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?”

**Please stand if able.*

Gospel Verse proclaimed by the cantor.

*Alleluia. I will not leave you orphaned, ¹ says the Lord. * I am com- ¹ ing to you. Alleluia. (John 14:18)*

Gospel Reading

The Gospel is announced: John 17:1-11

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

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

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R: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Dean Willich

Hymn of the Day

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus – ELW No. 391

Tune: HYFRYDOL

We will sing verses 1-2 and 4-5.

Please stand for the final verse.

Profession of Faith

The Nicene Creed – ELW page 104

Prayers of the People

P: Merciful God.

C: **receive our prayer.**

Sharing of Peace

Offering Response

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord – 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.

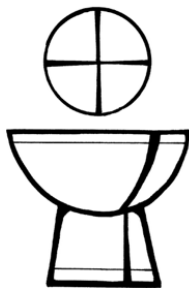
Offering Prayer

**Please stand if able.*

P: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love in the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

The Meal/Great Thanksgiving and Proper Preface –
ELW page 152

Holy, Holy, Holy – ELW page 153



Eucharistic Prayer IV

Sung Eucharistic Acclamations – ELW page 153

Christ has died. & Amen.

Spoken Acclamations

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...burning with justice, peace and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Lord's Prayer – ELW page 154

Lamb of God – ELW page 154

Invitation To Communion

Come to the table of new life.

Receive the risen Lord.

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

From a Judean Hillside – David Paxton

Post Communion Cantic – ELW No. 207

“Thankful hearts and voices raise;”

**Please stand if able.*

Prayer after Communion

P: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, † bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Recessional Hymn

Lord, You Give the Great Commission – ELW No. 579

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH

We will sing verses 1, 2, and 5.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Hallelujah Chorus – Ludwig van Beethoven

From CHRIST ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

Arranged by Homer Whitford

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

We thank Nativity's longtime friend Pastor Dean Willich for being with us today as Pastor Steve is recovering from surgery. Pastor Dean will also be with us next week for our celebration of Pentecost.

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, Cheryl Isotalo, 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 today, Sunday, May 17th following worship. All members of Nativity are invited to attend Church Council meetings.

Remember, next Sunday is Pentecost and the color of the day is red, dig through your wardrobe and adorn yourself in red. It is also Memorial Day Weekend as part of our service we will remember all those who have fallen in service to our country.

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.

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: 5/17 **Easter VII**
 11:00 AM “S” Nativity Worship
 Service with Communion
 12:30 PM “G” Nativity Council Meeting
- Tuesday: 5/19 12:00 PM “G” S.A. 12-step
 5-8 PM “G” Sewing Club
- Wednesday: 5/20 9:00 AM “UC” Quilters
 8:00 PM A.A. Al-Anon
- Thursday 5-21 Ascension of Our Lord – No Worship
 Service at Nativity
- Friday: 5/22 12:00 PM “G” S.A. 12-step
- Saturday 5/23 8:30 AM “S” No Organ Lesson
- Sunday: 5/24 **Day of Pentecost-Memorial Day**
 11:00 AM “S” Nativity Worship/Com.

Future Dates

Sunday, May 24th – Pentecost

Memorial Day Weekend

The Collor of the Day is Red.

Sunday, May 31st – Trinity Sunday

Being a fifth Sunday of the Month, we will also celebrate the Lutheran Rite of healing.

Commemorations this Week

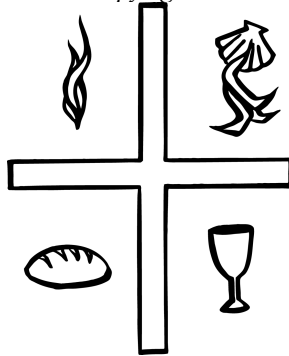
Commemorations: When we are baptized, we are baptized into the body of Christ. We understand this body to be the communion of saints, a diverse witness of men and women across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of 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).

Monday, May 18th, Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160: Erik, long considered the patron saint of Sweden, ruled from 1150 to 1160. He is honored for efforts to bring peace to the nearby pagan kingdoms and for his crusades to spread the Christian faith in Nordic lands. He established a protected Christian mission in Finland that was led by Henry of Uppsala. As king, Erik was noted for his desire to establish fair laws and courts and for his concern for the poor and sick. Erik was killed by a Danish army that approached him at worship on the day after the Ascension. He is reported to have said, “Let us at least finish the sacrifice. The rest of the

feast I shall keep elsewhere.” As he left worship he was killed.

Thursday, May 21, Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330: Wife of the coregent of the West, Helena (or Helen) was mother of Constantine, who later became Roman emperor. After he was converted to Christianity, he influenced her also to become Christian. From that point she lived an exemplary life of faith, particularly through acts of generosity toward the poor. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine and building churches on the sites she believed to be where Jesus was born, where he was buried, and from which he ascended.

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Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Traditional Worship Service Sundays at 11:00 AM

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Follow us on Facebook.

Member: Bluemound Heights Neighborhood Association