

Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church

“Our 92nd Year”

February 22, 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.

First Sunday In Lent

Invocabit

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Dr. Steven Kuhl
Lector/Reader: Arlene Renard
Minister of Music: Dennis Jon Wolfgang

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

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Prelude

Lenten Processional – Regina M. Pozzi
“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” –
LONESOME VALLEY – setting by Anthony Giamanco
All Mankind Fell In Adam's Fall
Setting by: Gottfried August Homilius

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

**Please stand if able.*

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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Kyrie - ELW page 138

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

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Gathering Hymn

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church – ELW No. 321
Tune: OLD 124th

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.

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

Please respond Amen.

**Please be seated for the Readings*

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 – “*Today’s Readings*” Insert
Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent’s promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

L: Word of God, word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Psalmody

Psalm 32 - “*Today’s Readings*” Insert

Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. (Ps. 32:10)

Please join in chanting responsively using tone 10.

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19 – “*Today’s Readings*” Insert
Through Adam’s disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ’s obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

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L: Word of God, word of Life.

C: Thanks Be to God

Gospel Acclamation – ELW page 142

“Return to the Lord, your God,”

**Please stand if able.*

Gospel Verse proclaimed by the cantor.

*One does not live by | bread alone, * but by every word
that comes from the | mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4)*

Gospel Reading

The Gospel is announced: Matthew 4:1-11

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

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in
the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of
the evil one.*

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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

The Glory of These Forty Days – ELW No. 320

Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR

Please stand for the final verse.

Profession of Faith

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 remain standing if able.*

Please place your offering in the white church found in the narthex of the church.

Offering Prayer

**Please stand if able.*

P: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**The Meal/Great Thanksgiving and Proper Preface –
ELW page 144**

Holy, Holy, Holy – ELW page 144

Eucharistic Prayer IV – ELW page 111

Sung Eucharistic Acclamations – ELW page 145
Christ has died. & Amen.

Spoken Acclamations

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Lord Jesus.

...burning with justice, peace and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Lord's Prayer – ELW page 145

Lamb of God – ELW page 146

Invitation To Communion

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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

The Glory of These Forty Days – Johnathon D. Ross
Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR

Post Communion Canticle – ELW page 113

“Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace;”

**Please stand if able.*

**Please stand if able.*

Prayer after Communion

P: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me – ELW No. 325
Tune: SOJOURNER

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God

Postlude

The Glory of These Forty Days – Paul Manz, Op.7, No. 8

Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR

Toccatina in A Minor – Jan Pieter Sweelinck

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*Our Sunday Bulletin is 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, Cheryl Isotalo, Maureen Jones, James Larson, Sarah O'Brien, Rev. Mick Roschke, 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.

There are no Birthdays This Week.

The next **Nativity Church Council** will be Sunday March 15th following worship. All members of Nativity are invited to attend Church Council meetings.

We are now taking orders for **Easter Flowers**, they will be supplied by Milaeger's for the price of **\$18.00**.

The following choices are available:

Easter Lilies & Daffodils,

Blue and Pink **Hyacinths,**

Pink to Purple **Tulips,**

Pink to Purple, White or Yellow **Premium Mums**

You will be able to take your plants following our Easter Worship Service. If you are not worshipping in person, you may order your flowers by mail indicating your choices and who they are in Memory/Honor of, you will have to make arrangements to pick them up or leave them and we will plant them in the church gardens.

The final date for ordering is **Sunday March 8th**.

Did you know that **Nativity** is on **Facebook**? Please **follow** us on **Facebook**.

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?

Future Dates

Sunday March 22nd – Fifth Sunday of Lent

The Gospel is the raising of Lazarus
We will also celebrate the Lutheran Rite of Healing

Palm Sunday, March 29th – 11:00 AM

*Procession with Palms, St. Matthew's Passion,
Holy Communion*

Holy Thursday, April 2nd – 10:00 AM

*Rite of Absolution, Holy Communion,
Stripping of the Altar*

Good Friday, April 3rd – 1:00 PM

*St. John's Passion, Bidding Prayers,
Adoration of the Cross
Meditative Organ Prelude begins at 12:30 PM*

Easter Sunday, April 5th – 11:00 AM

*Restoring the Alleluia, Easter Proclamation,
Festive Music, Holy Communion*

This Week's Calendar

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

TODAY: 2/22 **Lent I**
11:00 AM "S" Nativity Worship
Service with Communion

Tuesday: 2/24 12:00 PM "G" S.A. 12-step

Wednesday: 2/25 9:00 AM "UC" Quilters
8:00 PM A.A. Al-Anon

Friday: 2/27 12:00 PM "G" S.A. 12-step

Saturday: 2/28 8:30 AM "S" Organ Lesson

Sunday: 3/1 **Lent II**
11:00 AM "S" Nativity Worship with
Communion –

Commemorations this Week

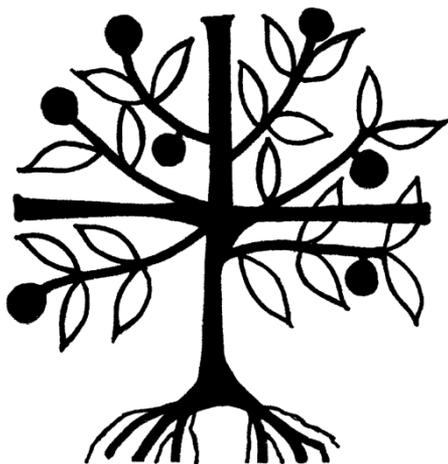
Commemorations: When we are baptized, we are baptized into the body of Christ. We understand this body to be the communion of saints, a diverse witness of men and women across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of 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, February 23rd – Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, artyr, died 156: Polycarp was bishop of Smyrna (in present day western Turkey) and a link between the apostolic age and the church at the end of the second century. He is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation. In turn he was known by Iranaeus, bishop of Lyon in France, and Ignatius of Antioch. At the age of eighty-six he was martyred for his faith. When urged to save his life and renounce his faith, Polycarp replied, "Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my king who saved me?" The magistrate who made the offer was reluctant to kill a gentle old man, but he had no choice. Polycarp was burned at the stake, his death a testimony to the cost of renouncing temptation.

Wednesday, February 25th – Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921: Fedde was born in Norway and trained as a deaconess. In 1882, at the age of thirty-two, she was asked to come to New York to minister to the poor and to Norwegian seafarers. Her influence was wide-ranging, and she established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn and the

Deaconess House and Hospital of the Lutheran Free Church in Minneapolis. She returned home to Norway in 1895 and died there.

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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