

**Nativity Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**  
*“Our 92<sup>nd</sup> Year”*  
**March 8, 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.

# Third Sunday In Lent

## *Oculi (Eye) Sunday*

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

**Lector/Reader: Arlene Renard**

**Minister of Music: Dennis Jon Wolfgang**

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

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### **Prelude**

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” – setting by  
Truoke M. Ameigh

Lenten Prelude – Dennis Janzer

*Quadibet on WONDROUS LOVE and PASSION CHORALE*

Meditation on “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross – John Barr

NEAR THE CROSS

### **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**

As the Deer Runs to the River – ELW No. 331

Tune: JULION

## **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**

Exodus 17:1-7 – *“Today’s Readings” Insert*

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the Lord among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.*

**L:** Word of God, word of Life.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

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## **Psalmody**

Psalm 95 - *“Today’s Readings” Insert*

*Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)*

*Please join in chanting responsively using tone 6.*

## **Second Reading**

Romans 5:1-11 – Not Printed in *“Today’s Readings” Insert*  
*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus’ death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in*

*hope for our final salvation.* From Sundays & Seasons copyright ©  
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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.*

*Lord, you are truly the Savior<sup>1</sup> of the world; \* give me this living water that I may never<sup>1</sup> thirst again. (John 4:42, 15)*

**Gospel Reading**

The Gospel is announced: John 4:5-42

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

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

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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**

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross – ELW No. 335

Tune: NEAR THE CROSS

*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**

"Lamb of God, Most Holy" – setting by Larry Harris O  
LAMM GOTTES, UNSCHULDIG

**Post Communion Canticle** – ELW page 113

*"Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace;"*

*\*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**

As the Sun with Longer Journey – ELW No. 329

Tune: NAGEL

## **Dismissal**

P Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God**

## **Postlude**

Prelude in d Minor – Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

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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.

## **Birthdays This Week**

Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – **Arthur Gruetzner**

Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – **Rev. Gus Barnes**

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

Nativity's continued existence depends on our Faithful Volunteers, a big thank you to recent volunteers:

Sandie Larson and Nicole DeBack for cleaning the Bathrooms, taking out the trash and vacuuming.

Jim Ribnek for constantly fixing things and preparing our fellowship times.

John Gordon and Jill Mickelson who count and track the weekly offerings.

Jill and Dennis for completing and filing the Evangelical Lutheran Church's required congregational report.

### **New at Nativity – Sewing Club**

Starting Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> thru Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> 5 to 8 PM in Goetz Fellowship Hall (enter 69<sup>th</sup> St. Door). Choose from two different projects a "Sweatshirt Jacket Upcycle" or a "Memory Bear".

Questions should be directed to Tammy Newburg. Tammy's contact information can be obtained from Jim, Pastor Steve or Dennis.

Today is the final day to order your **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 Today, **Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> – Fifth Sunday of Lent**

The Gospel is the raising of Lazarus

We will also celebrate the Lutheran Rite of Healing

#### **Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 AM**

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

#### **Holy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10:00 AM**

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

#### **Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1:00 PM**

*St. John's Passion, Bidding Prayers,  
Adoration of the Cross*

*Meditative Organ Prelude begins at 12:30 PM*

#### **Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – 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:	3/8	<b>Lent III</b> 11:00 AM “S” Nativity Worship Service with Communion
Tuesday:	3/10	12:00 PM “G” S.A. 12-step 5-8 PM “G” Sewing Club
Wednesday:	3/11	9:00 AM “UC” Quilters 8:00 PM A.A. Al-Anon
Friday:	3/13	12:00 PM “G” S.A. 12-step
Saturday	3/14	8:30 AM “S” No Organ Lesson
Sunday:	3/15	<b>Lent IV</b> 11:00 AM “S” Nativity Worship with Communion – 12:30 PM “G” Church Council

### **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).

**Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society:** Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland and remained a slave until about age thirty when, fearing she would be sold and moved farther south, she escaped with the help of the Underground Railroad. After that, she helped about three hundred others escape until slavery was abolished. After the Civil War, her home in Auburn,

New York, became a center for women's rights and served the aged and poor.

Sojourner Truth, too, was born a slave, in New York state. Her birth name was Isabella. After slavery was abolished in New York in 1827, she was freed and, while working as a housekeeper, became deeply involved in Christianity. A number of years later, she discerned a call to become a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving. In later life, she also became a popular speaker against slavery and for women's rights.

**Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604:** Gregory was born into a politically influential family. At one time he held political office and at another time he lived as a monk, all before he was elected to the papacy. Gregory's work was extensive. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. He established a school to train church musicians. Gregorian chant is named in his honor. He wrote a treatise underscoring what is required of a parish pastor serving a congregation. He sent missionaries to preach to the Anglo Saxons who had invaded England. And at one time he organized distribution of grain during a shortage of food in Rome.

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## **Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church** **Traditional Worship Service Sundays at 11:00 AM**

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