**Nativity Ev. Lutheran Church**

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**40 YEARS OF GRACE 1985 - 2025**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS- August 17, 2025**

**Communion Statement of Nativity Lutheran Church**

Nativity celebrates Communion with the firm belief that Jesus Christ is truly present (Real Presence) with His body and blood as believers receive Him “in, with, and under” the bread and wine. *(1 Corinthians 11:23-27)*

This body and blood of Christ are for the forgiveness of our sins and to strengthen us in our relationship with Him and to bring us together in unity of belief with one another.

We celebrate communion 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month. Before participating in Communion we believe it is necessary to examine ourselves spiritually.*(1Corinthians 11:28)*

Please review this self–evaluation when preparing for the Lord’s Supper.

**Have I been baptized? Do I repent of my sins? Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior? Do I believe Christ’s body and blood are truly present in this Sacrament? Do you sincerely intend to amend your life with the aid of God’s power?**

Nativity welcomes all those who believe these truths, *(1 Corinthians 10:17, Romans 16:17-18, 2 John 10-11, Ephesians 4:4-6)* to join in this sacred meal!

**As We Gather *Signs of the Times***

Not everyone who claims to speak on behalf of God Almighty actually does so. There have been many false prophets over the centuries, and there are many still today who would fill people with “vain hopes” speaking “visions of their own mind” (Jeremiah 23:16). In contrast, God invites His people to trust what He says is His Holy Word. This is the faith exemplified in the lives of the saints who have trusted in what God says more than in what their eyes could see. This simple trust is especially important for us who follow Jesus; after all, sometimes His works mystify: a sword that brings peace; His Word that kills and makes alive; and division that results in union (Luke 12:51).

This week, **please continue to pray for**:

Ami,

Amy,

Barb,

Benjamin,

Bill,

Cali,

Crain,

Curt,

Deb,

Dianne,

Irene,

Jean,

Kathy,

Kimberly,

Marty,

Sharron,

Sheryl,

Steve,

Tim,

Tom,

 *Please contact Pastor Jones for additions to the prayer list.*

There is a **Council Meeting** scheduled for Sunday, August 17, following worship.

**It’s never too early to think about candy.** There is a bin in the narthex for candy. We are starting early to collect candy for Trunk or Treat and for parades that we would like to walk in this year. Kroger has had digital coupons and sales. If we plan ahead and watch for sales, we can keep this fun and the cost down.

**Pig in the Pines** has been cancelled for this year.

**Community Led Food Drive**

Monday, August 25, 2025 there will be a food distribution event at McDonald GMC Cadillac on 5155 State Street in Saginaw. Distribution will begin at 9am and continue until supplies are gone. The event is open to anyone, *no questions asked.* Food will be boxed and ready to pick up in a drive through format. This event is sponsored by the East Side Soup Kitchen, McDonald GMC Cadillac, Saginaw Area Fireworks, and volunteers. Volunteers would be appreciated! Show up to volunteer by 7:30am on Monday.

**TEXAS HILL COUNTRY FLOODING DISASTER RELIEF**

“We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19) — Helping the hurting amid disaster.

Due to the enormity of the devastation in the Texas District, they are overwhelmed with individual donations. Please direct your donation to the Michigan District, LCMS and we will send one check for the total to the Texas District Office. You may do this by sending a check to Michigan District, LCMS; 3773 Geddes Rd; Ann Arbor MI 48105, calling 734.665.3791 ext. 236, – or – by donating online via Paypal (Credit/Debit Cards also accepted). You may also direct your monetary donations to: **LCMS Disaster Response—Flood Relief**. Visit lcms.org/givenow/flood or mail a check to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, at P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. On the memo line, write “Disaster Response—Flood Relief (NM8040-26040).

**Sports Camps and Short-Term Missionaries**

In a world where community engagement and spiritual growth are more vital than ever, sports camps have emerged as powerful tools for transformation. This year’s camp was more than just an event—it was a movement that united children, short-term missionaries, and the wider community in a harmonious blend of sports, faith, and service. At its heart was the Lutheran conviction that God is at work in all vocations, and that every skill, conversation, and act of service can be a means of His grace.

Learn More!

**Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Ingathering in October**

The LWR Ingathering is a regional event where quilters and kit-makers can drop off their donations to be shipped to LWR’s Maryland or Minnesota warehouses. Ingatherings allow many people to ship their donations of quilts and kits together in a coordinated and efficient manner, saving time and money. If you haven’t before, consider preparing quilts and kits and bringing them to one of the ingathering sites listed through the QR code. There’s still time—the ingathering happens in October.



**Pentecost 10, August 14, 2025**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Jeremiah 23:16–29*

(Beware of untrustworthy prophets! Instead, pay attention to God’s own Word.)

16Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. 17They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”

18For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? 19Behold, the storm of the Lord! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. 20The anger of the Lord will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly. 21“I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. 22But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

 23“Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God afar off? 24Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord. 25I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ 26How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, 27who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? 28Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the Lord. 29Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

**EPISTLE** *Hebrews 11:17–31; 12:1–3*

(The great cloud of witnesses—saints who lived by faith in Jesus.)

17By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” 19He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. 20By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. 21By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. 22By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

 23By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. 24By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, 25choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. 27By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. 28By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

 29By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. 30By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. 31By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

 1Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

 3Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

**ALLELUIA VERSE** *Jeremiah 23:29a, 28b*

P: Alleluia. Is not My word like fire, declares the Lord?

**C: What has straw in common with wheat? Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 12:49–53 (54–56)*

(Jesus disrupts our status quo by dividing so that He can unite and lead us in understanding signs of the times.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

 49[Jesus said:] “I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! 50I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! 51Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. 52For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. 53They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

 54He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming.’ And so it happens. 55And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. 56You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**