**Nativity Ev. Lutheran Church**

**625 W Clinton St. Charles MI 48655**

**989-865-9964**

Website: https://nativity-stcharles.org

Email: nativitylutheran625@gmail.com

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/nativitystc>

Rev. Kevin Jones, 989-370-4981 revkevjones@me.com

**40 YEARS OF GRACE 1985 - 2025**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS- August 24, 2025 Pentecost 11**

**As We Gather *The Open Door***

God would have all people to be saved, to enter by the narrow door. Yet, in our own strength, this is not possible. Therefore, we rely on Jesus, the Mediator of the new covenant, whose blood intercedes for us before the Father, and upon the Holy Spirit who brings us into saving faith.

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

Ami,

Amy,

Barb,

Benjamin,

Bill,

Bonnie

Cali,

Crain,

Curt,

Deb,

Dianne,

Irene,

Jean,

Kathy,

Kimberly,

Marty,

Ronald,

Sharron,

Sheryl,

Steve,

Tim,

Tom,

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

**Part Time Office Secretary Needed**

Nativity is in need of a church secretary. If you are interested, or know of someone who is- please contact Pastor Jones. This position would entail 6-15 hours per week. Duties would include:

* Correspondence
* Record Keeping
* Voicemail monitoring
* Bulletin format/printing
* Coordination of church/site activities
* Filing

Computer skills are necessary, but training is offered. Familiarity with Microsoft Excel, Word and Powerpoint are beneficial, but training will be offered.

**Candy Collection** There is a bin in the narthex for donations of candy. We are collecting candy for Trunk or Treat at Nativity, October 31, 2025. Please watch for store coupons and sales to maximize savings. All donations are appreciated. *(Pastor Jones’ dad was a dentist!)*

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



St John’s Amelith **Oktoberfest**, September 13-14, 2025: Beer Tent, Bake Sale, German Food, World Famous Chicken Dinner, and More! Scan the QR code with your phone for more information. Events are different from Saturday to Sunday.

Have you suffered loss? Are you grieving the death of a loved one? **Grace Lutheran, Auburn** is offering a 13 week program called **GriefShare**. It is designed to provide comfort to those who mourn. Each session is about 90 minutes with a video and group discussion. GriefShare reminds us that we are not alone- Jesus comes alongside us to comfort us and lead us through our grief. The next session begins Thursday, September 4, at 6:30pm.

Need a one-day event? **Surviving the Holidays** is offered on Sunday, November 9th from 2-4pm at Grace, Auburn.

**Call for Nominations: National Synod Officer, Board, and Commission Positions**

The Committee for Convention Nominations requests nominations of qualified members of Synod member congregations for the following positions to be filled by the Synod convention meeting July 18–23, 2026. Officers, agencies, ordained and commissioned ministers, and member congregations of the Synod and their lay members are all invited to submit nominations, to be received preferably before August 18, 2025, and no later than October 18, 2025. Nominees are sought for:

• Secretary of the Synod

• LCMS Board of Directors (at-large and regional)

• LCMS Boards for National and International Mission (regional)

• Commission on Theology and Church Relations

• Concordia Historical Institute Board of Governors

• Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors

• Lutheran Church Extension Fund Board of Directors

• LCMS Foundation Board of Trustees

• Concordia University System Board of Directors

• Synod University and Seminary Boards of Regents

Important information, including an explanatory memorandum, a detailed description of the offices to be filled (with present terms and incumbents), and instructions for use of the **new online nomination system**, is available at **lcms.org/nominate.** Any member of a member congregation with a valid email address will be able to establish an account and submit a nomination.



**Pentecost 11, August 24, 2025**

**As We Gather *The Open Door***

God would have all people to be saved, to enter by the narrow door. Yet, in our own strength, this is not possible. Therefore, we rely on Jesus, the Mediator of the new covenant, whose blood intercedes for us before the Father, and upon the Holy Spirit who brings us into saving faith.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 66:18–23*

 18“For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, 19and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. 20And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the Lord, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. 21And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the Lord.

22“For as the new heavens and the new earth
 that I make
shall remain before me, says the Lord,
 so shall your offspring and your name remain.
23From new moon to new moon,
 and from Sabbath to Sabbath,
all flesh shall come to worship before me,
declares the Lord.”

**EPISTLE** *Hebrews 12:4–24*

 4In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
 nor be weary when reproved by him.
6For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
 and chastises every son whom he receives.”

7It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? 10For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

 12Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, 13and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. 14Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; 16that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. 17For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

 18For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest 19and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. 20For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” 21Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” 22But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 13:22–30*

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

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

 22[Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. 23And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, 24“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ 26Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ 27But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ 28In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. 29And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. 30And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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