**Nativity Ev. Lutheran Church**

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**40 YEARS OF GRACE 1985 - 2025**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS- August 31, 2025 Pentecost 12**

**As We Gather** Life in First Class

We like to think of ourselves as worthy of honor and respect. We would like to live as deserving of first-class treatment. But in today’s Gospel, Jesus encourages us to live humbly among people around us, and He echoes the directives in Proverbs. Not only does He instruct us to humbly find the lowest seat, but when we do the inviting, He also cautions against expecting social payback. By ourselves, we would chafe under such limits, but our faith in the grace of God, coming to us through the sacrifice of Christ’s blood on our behalf, moves us to rely on His undeserved favor. That frees us to hear those directives as descriptions of the sort of living by which we may return praise and honor to our Savior—life in first class, indeed!

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,

The families of: Trisha, Joyce; and Blair

 *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!)*

**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!

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

**Hymn-Fest**

Sunday, October 12, 2025 at 3pm at Grace Lutheran Church, Auburn.

Featuring Mass Choir, Brass Ensemble, Pipe Organ

303 Ruth Street, Auburn, MI

**Financial Assistance**

Did your old refrigerator suddenly stop working? Have you received a utility shut-off notice? Are you wondering how to budget for utilities? Emergency assistance may be available for qualified households in the Saginaw County area! Scan the QR code to apply for State Emergency Relief. There are funds remaining for the 2025 Budget year, which ends September 30, so apply today.

**SPIRITUAL FIRST AID** November 7-8 | Grand Blanc

You are invited come and learn how to help hurting people around you at this two-day training workshop at Faith, Grand Blanc. Register here.

**WHITE AS SNOW WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

Frankenmuth | January 24

Join the women of St. Lorenz for this one-day event to fuel your soul and set your heart on Christ. Hear from the keynote speaker, attend breakout sessions, and enjoy a Bavarian Inn lunch. Early Bird tickets are $39 through August 31 ($45 after). For more information, visit stlorenz.org/womens-conference.

**Pentecost 11, August 24, 2025**

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**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Proverbs 25:2–10*

*(Do not think of yourself more highly than anyone else.)*

 2It is the glory of God to conceal things,
 but the glory of kings is to search things out.
3As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,
 so the heart of kings is unsearchable.
4Take away the dross from the silver,
 and the smith has material for a vessel;
5take away the wicked from the presence of the king,
 and his throne will be established in righteousness.
6Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence
 or stand in the place of the great,
7for it is better to be told, “Come up here,”
 than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.
What your eyes have seen
 8do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end,
 when your neighbor puts you to shame?
9Argue your case with your neighbor himself,
 and do not reveal another’s secret,
10lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,
 and your ill repute have no end.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Hebrews 13:1–17*

*(Live the sanctified life for which Christ paid with His life.)*

 1Let brotherly love continue. 2Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. 3Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. 4Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. 5Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” 6So we can confidently say,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

 7Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. 8Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. 9Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. 10We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. 11For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. 12So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. 13Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. 14For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. 15Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. 16Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

 17Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*Congregation will please stand*

**VERSE** *Luke 14:11*

P: Alleluia. Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,

**C: and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 14:1–14* (Jesus teaches true humility.)

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

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

 1One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. 2And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. 3And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” 4But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. 5And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” 6And they could not reply to these things.

 7Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, 8“When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, 9and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. 10But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. 11For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

 12He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. 13But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**