

NATIVITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



3rd Sunday after Epiphany

10:15 a.m.

January 26, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ELW - SETTING 1

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INTRODUCTION

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

P: = Pastor W: = Worship Assistant A: = All in Attendance *indicates congregation should stand if able.

PRELUDE

(During the procession and recession please turn to face the Processional Cross and follow its movements to and from the Altar).

GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship:

(a moment of silence for reflection as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.)

*ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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, \(\psi\) one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

A: Amen

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Merciful God,

A: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **A: Amen.**



- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,O fallen human race!Look and be saved through faith alone,be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A: And also with you.

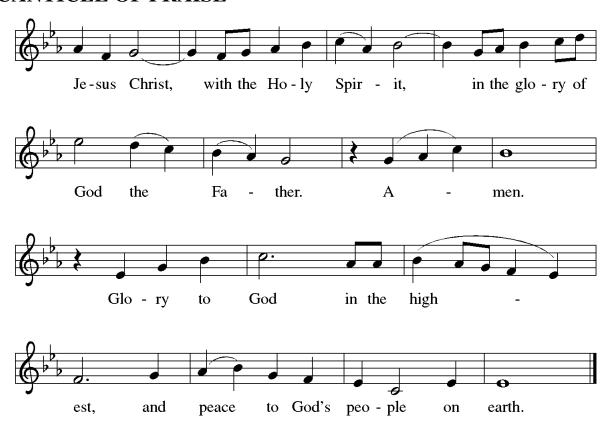
*KYRIE In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer cy. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy. O For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us Lord. pray the to Lord, have cy. mer For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us to the Lord. pray Lord, have mer - cy. Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men, a - men.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE



*CANTICLE OF PRAISE



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that "the joy of the LORD is your strength."

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first

day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 19

The teaching of the LORD revives the soul. (Ps. 19:7)

- W: ¹The heavens declare the glo- ¹ry of God, and the sky proclaims its ¹ maker's handiwork.
- A: ² One day tells its tale | to another, and one night imparts knowledge | to another.
- W: ³ Although they have no ¹ words or language, and their voices ¹ are not heard,
- A: ⁴ their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends ¹ of the world, where God has pitched a tent ¹ for the sun.
- W: ⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out ¹ of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to ¹ run its course.
- A: ⁶ It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of ¹ it again; nothing is hidden from its ¹ burning heat.
- W: ⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- ¹ vives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom ¹ to the simple.

- A: ⁸ The statutes of the LORD are just and re-¹ joice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light ¹ to the eyes.
- W: ⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and en- ¹ dures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous ¹ altogether.
- A: ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, more than ¹ much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey ¹ in the comb.
- W: ¹¹By them also is your ser- ¹ vant enlightened, and in keeping them there is ¹ great reward.
- A: 12 Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.
- W: ¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion ¹ over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a ¹ great offense.
- A: 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

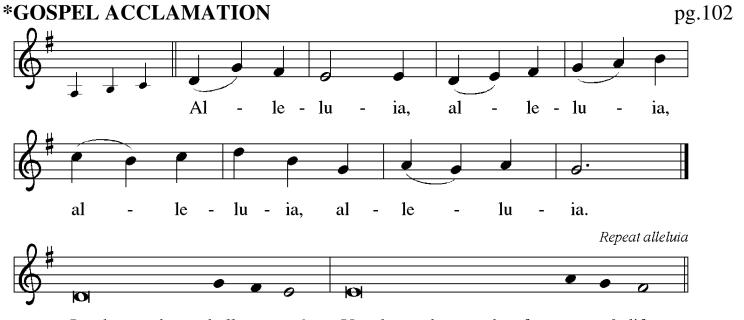
¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are

treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

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

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

*GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

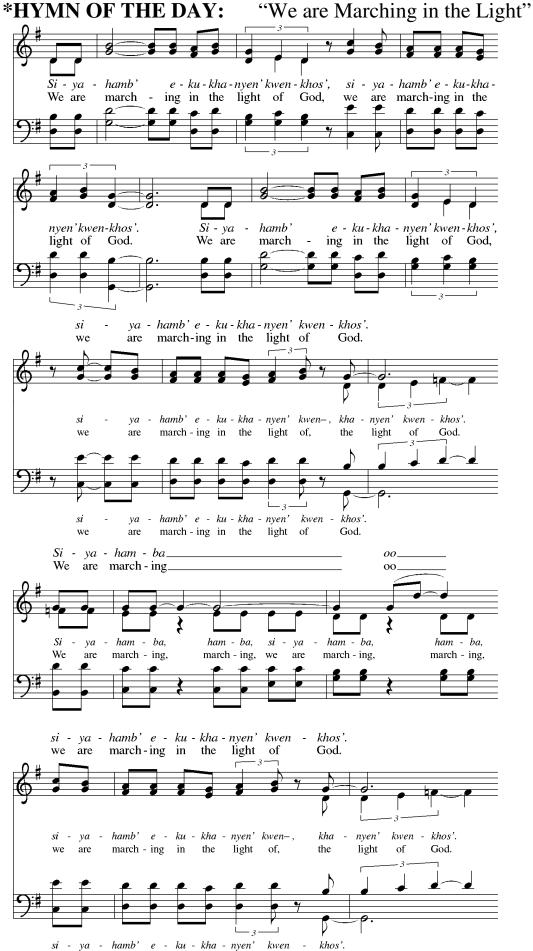
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

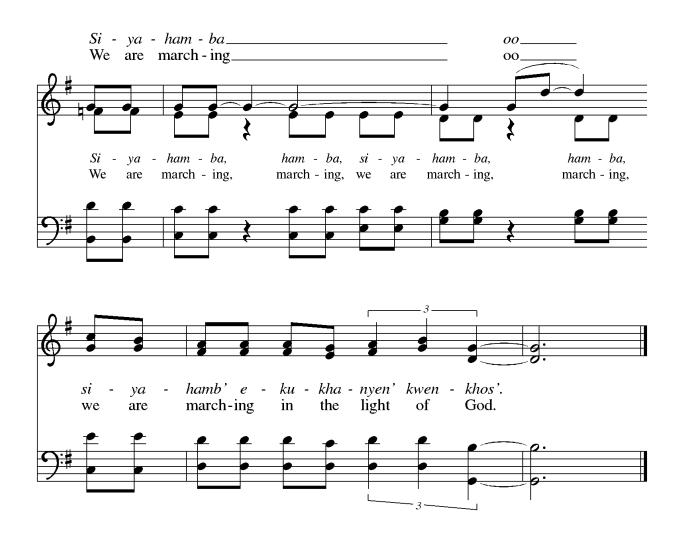


we are

march - ing in the

light

God.



*THE APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us now confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

A: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

W: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

W: As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer

W: As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Be a sure refuge to all suffering from wildfires in Southern California and by severe winter weather, and those involved in long term recovery from disasters. Grant courage and protection to all who provide aid; embrace with supportive communities all who are newly displaced or homeless; comfort those grieving all that has been destroyed and give patience to those who are anxious, not knowing when relief will come. Heal your whole creation. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. We pray for peace, healing and justice in our nation and world. We pray especially for those who witness and experience violence, especially the people of Ukraine, Russia, Haiti, the Middle East, regions of Africa, and wherever conflict and war exist in the world. Guide our nation in continuing to heed your prophetic call. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer

W: As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery. Be present to all who are sick, grieving or in any need. We pray especially for *Ron Olson*, *Linda Halcoussis*, *Dave Miller*, *Matt Fickes*, *Debbie Pappa*, *Maryann Gilbert*, *Janet Liotta*, *Tim Wargo*, *Tom Eichenlaub* and those we name in our hearts before you. God of grace,

W: As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world. Especially parish nurses, fellowship hosts, worship leaders, council, and committee members. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

hear our prayer.

W: As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church, and beloved friends and family who have died. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

A: Amen.

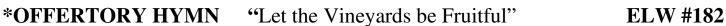
A:

*PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRELUDE

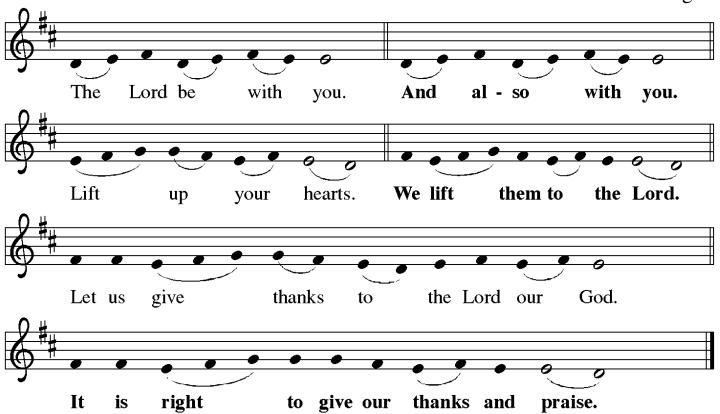




*OFFERTORY PRAYER

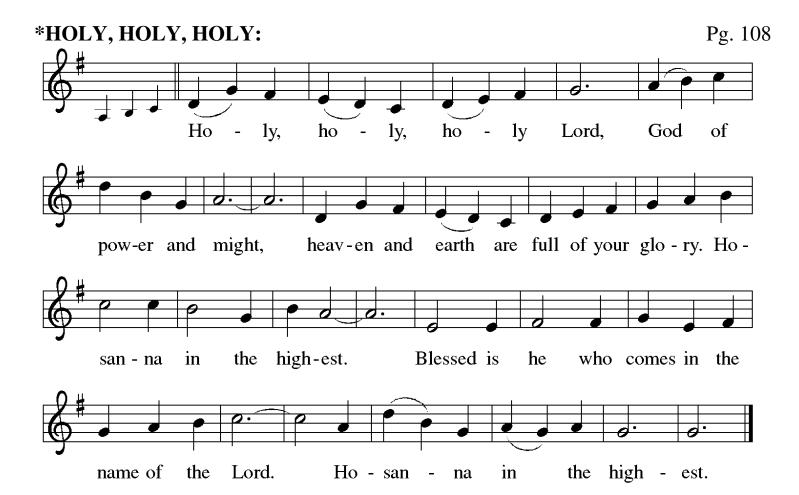
W: Let us pray together.

A: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.



*THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

pg.110

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

A: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

A: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pg. 112

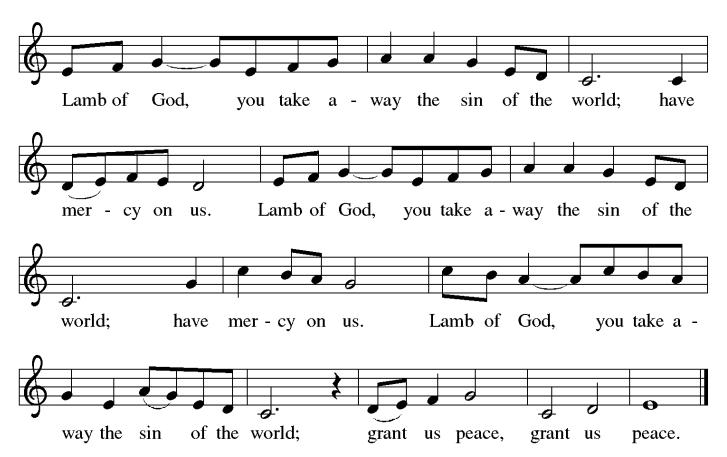
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

A: Our Father,

who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

*THE PRESENTATION: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all is now ready.

LAMB OF GOD: Pg. 112



COMMUNION

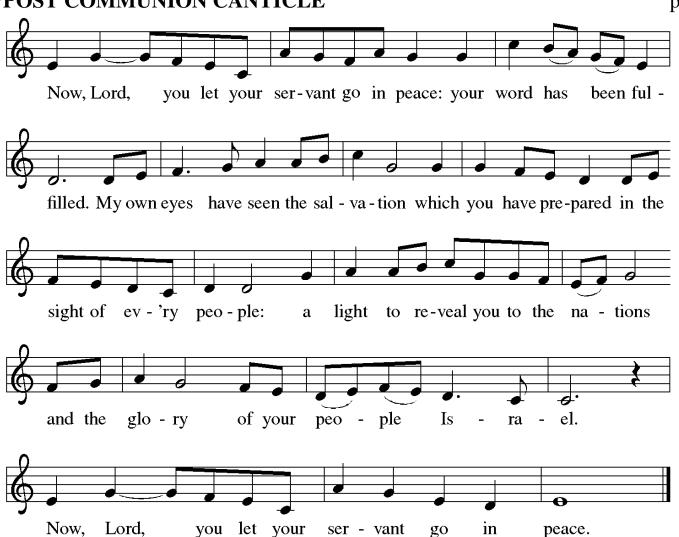
There is a grape juice option in cups located in the communion trays for those who wish to abstain from wine. If you desire a gluten free wafer in lieu of the bread for communion, please let Pastor know.



*TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

A: Amen



*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

W: Let us Pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

A: Amen.

* BLESSING

P: The Spirit of the triune God \oplus bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

A: Amen.



*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

* Announcements *

We are holding a special congregational meeting after worship today for the sole purpose of authorizing the repairs to the roof of the Christian Educational Unit. Our constitution requires that contracts over \$5,000 has to be approved by the congregation.

Stay after the meeting for our **monthly coffee hour** hosted by Nativity's Women of the ELCA.

The Souper Bowl is ON! "Field" your most delicious recipe and compete for the infamous golden ladle award. Please join us for this fun fellowship event after church on February 9. If you are planning to enter a soup in the competition, just write your name on the signup sheet across from the kitchen. We hope to see everyone there! And we hope you consider bringing your super soup with you!

We are in need of **worship helpers and offering tellers** each week. Feel free to use either the paper signup sheet by the flower chart or the <u>on-line signup genius</u> to volunteer.

Social Ministry will be collecting items for **NHCO's Personal Care sharing project** from February 2nd through March 30th. Please see flyer on the bulletin board across from the kitchen or on the NHCO page of our website for more information. Below is a list of full size items they are in need of:

Conditioner Disposable Razors

Washcloth or Loofa
Deodorant
Dental Floss
Body Lotion *

Lip Balm
Dental Floss
Shaving Cream

Bar of Soap * Toothpaste
Shower Gel * Toothbrushes

* Unscented preferred Shampoo

Donations can be placed in the bins under the coat rack.

North Hills Community Outreach Food Pantry Needs: Cereal, Macaroni & Cheese, Pasta Sauce, Granola Bars/Snacks, Chunky Soups, Peanut Butter. Please place all donations in the box labeled NHCO. *updated:* 01/02/25

The 2025 Flower chart is now available across from the nursery and <u>on-line</u>. Please remember to fill out a flower card indicating the reason when signing up.

The Rev. Jennifer Soltis, Pastor



Organist: Alex Bednar

Worship Assistant: Tom Beecher Lector: Ruth Kiefer

Usher: Merlinda Bisese Greeter: Milan Glock

Videographer: Heather Johnson

Altar Guild: Carol Banks

Offering Tellers: Tom Beecher & Merlinda Bisese



The flowers in the chancel this morning are presented by Ruth Kiefer in loving memory of Ruth Meyer & James R. Kiefer and by the Chantz's in honor of Jean's 65th birthday.

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For the Week of January 26 – February 1

TODAY SPECIAL Congregational Meeting

Coffee Hour hosted by WELCA

MONDAY AA meeting – 7pm WELCA – 10am

WEDNESDAY Gathered in Grace – 10am

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 In-person
 YouTube
 Offering

 Jan 19
 32
 22
 \$ 5,283

YTD Financial Summary as of December 30, 2024

Revenue YTD \$ 95,348 Expenses YTD \$ 91,571 Difference YTD \$ 3,777

For Pastoral care, you can contact Pastor Jennifer: pastorjennifersoltis@gmail.com (570) 401-1764