

NATIVITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4517 Mt. Royal Blvd., Allison Park, PA 15101 (412) 346-4971 e-mail: NativityLC@verizon.net www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org *Caring, Witnessing, Serving*



4th Sunday of Easter 10:15 a.m. May 11, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ELW - SETTING III

INTRODUCTION

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

_____*_____

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

GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALKS: Communications & Fellowship

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



HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsor(s) present the candidate. I/We present Maddisyn for baptism.

P: Maddisyn; called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ? *Candidate*: I do.

P: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Maddisyn baptized into Christ? *Sponsor(s)*: I/We do.

P: As you bring Maddisyn to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that Maddisyn may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Maddisyn grow in the Christian faith and life? *Sponsor(s):* I/We do.

P: Sponsor(s), do you promise to nurture Maddisyn in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? Sponsor(s): I do.

P: People of God, do you promise to support Maddisyn, and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

A: We do.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? *Sponsor(s) & Candidate:* I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidate and the assembly.P: Do you believe in God the Father?A: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

A: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

A: 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.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

A: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come. A: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. *Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving*.

P: Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

A: make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and gives new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless

love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, A: make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **A: make us one as you are one.**

P: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

A: Amen.

The Assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

Water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

P: Maddisyn, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

After the baptism, the assembly responds.

A: You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

P: Sustain Maddisyn with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. A: Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

P: Maddisyn, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A: Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized.

W: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The minister and the baptismal group face the assembly.

W: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

A: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

*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** (Spoken)

W: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

A: Lord, have mercy.

W: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

A: Lord, have mercy.

W: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

A: Lord, have mercy.

W: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

A: Lord, have mercy.

W: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

A: Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

³⁶ Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

- W: ¹ The LORD [|] is my shepherd; I shall not [|] be in want.
- A: ² The LORD makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures and leads me be-¹ side still waters.
- W: ³You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways ¹ for your name's sake.
- A: ⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall [|] fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they [|] comfort me.
- W: ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence ¹ of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ¹ running over.
- A: ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ¹ of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the ¹ LORD forever.

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor

and power and might

be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

- ¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
- ¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."
- L: The Word of the Lord.
- A: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

A: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter. A: Glory to you, O Lord.

*GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

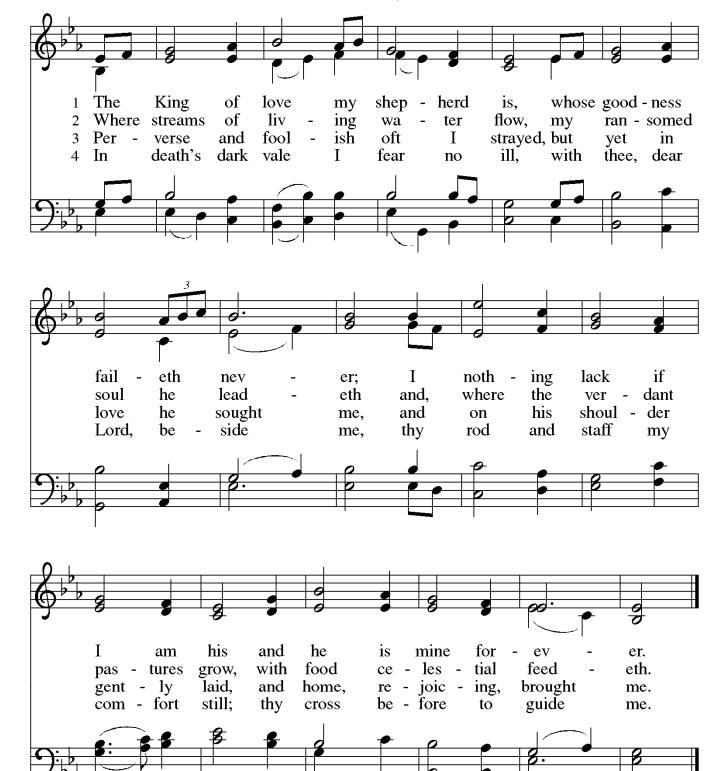
²² At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

- P: The Gospel of the Lord.
- A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY:**

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" Stanzas 1, 2 & 5



- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

W: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

W: You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters of baptism, and send us forth as signs of your love. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

W: You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. Revive fragile ecosystems and restore species in danger of extinction. Teach us new ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

W: You lead all peoples along right pathways. Grant wisdom and compassion to judges, lawyers, mediators, and legal advocates. Dismantle systems of mass incarceration, empower processes of restorative justice, and encourage all who strive for healing in our communities. We pray for all 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. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

W: You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherding care. We especially pray for *Terry Steinheiser, Jean Haught, Oliver Kiefer, Carol Bednar, Pr. John Cawkins, Pr. Tony Schneck* and all those whom we name in our hearts before you. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

W: Bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to those whose relationships with their families are difficult and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children. Comfort all those for whom today is difficult for various reasons. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

W: You are the source of everlasting life. In deep gratitude for all your saints, we rejoice in the joy and hope of the resurrection made known to us in Jesus, your beloved child. Hear us, O God.

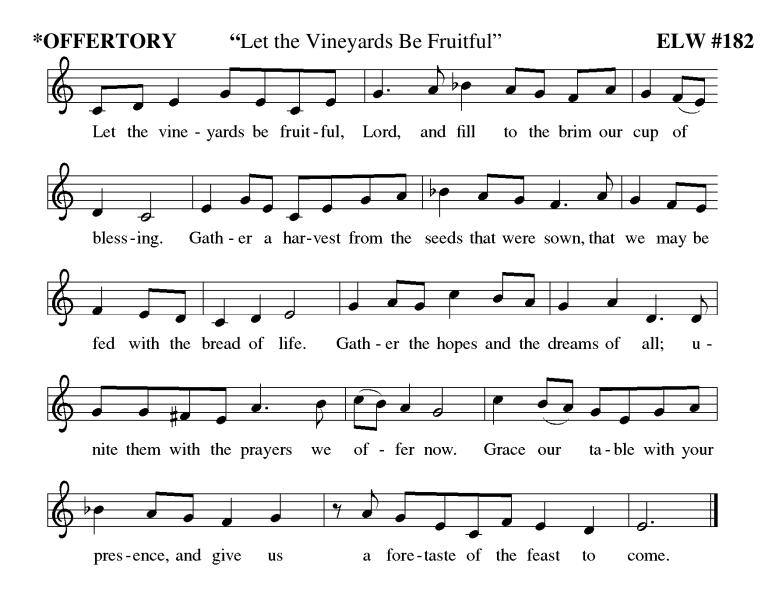
A: Your mercy is great.

P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

A: Amen.

*PEACE

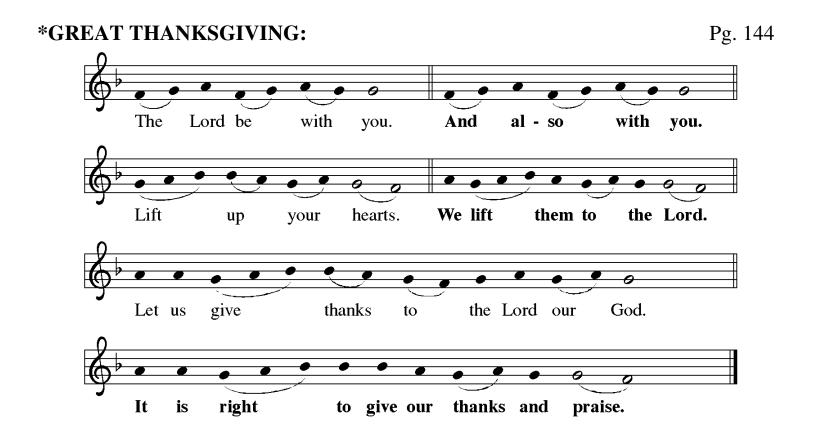
- P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
- A: And also with you.



***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

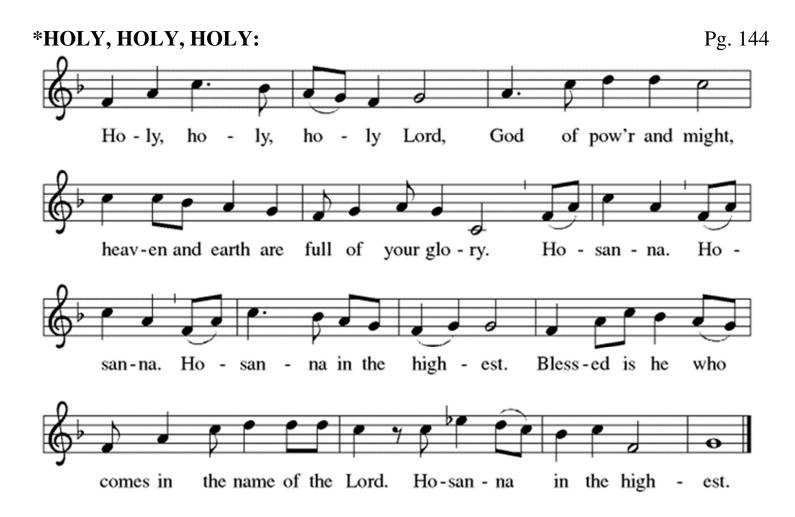
W: Let us pray together.

A: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

- A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.
- A: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
- A: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

A: Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

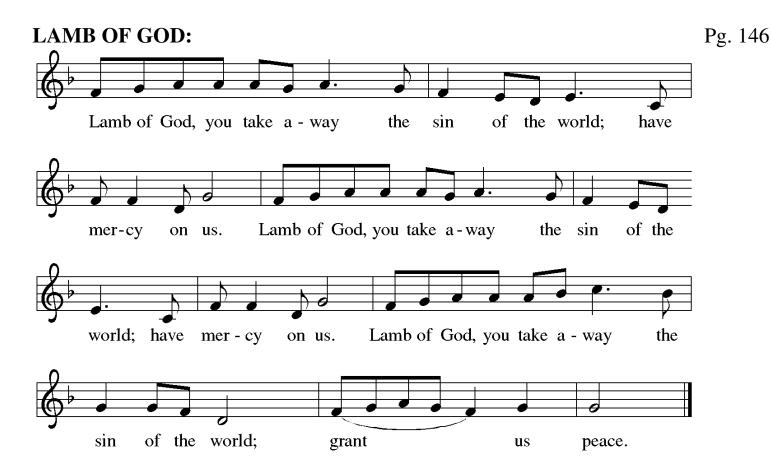
Pg. 145

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.



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. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

A: Amen.

* BLESSING

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

A: Amen.



*DISMISSAL

- P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- A: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- A: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

* Announcements *

Today we welcome into our church family through Holy Baptism, **Maddisyn Naomi Mullen**. Maddie is the great-granddaughter of Linda Smith and the great-niece of Joanne Smith.

Stewardship Sundays - We give thanks to God for our many blessings and for the ways in which God guides us to use our time, talents, and treasures to do the work we are called to do together in service to our Lord. As a way to celebrate our work together, we will be having temple talks about our different committees here at Nativity. These talks will take place during the announcements in the weeks leading up to our annual meeting on June 1.

The **Southwest PA Synodical WELCA** group is supporting **ROBIN'S HOME**, a charity in Butler, PA as this year's designated outreach project. This group provides transitional housing for women veterans and their children as well as Veteran Peer Support Services and a Veteran's HEART Resource Center. Our WELCA Group is collecting the following items for the center: Laundry detergent, dryer sheets, cleaning supplies, brooms, dustpans, mops and buckets, towels and washcloths and \$25 gift cards to Walmart, Aldi and Visa. If you would like to help with this mission, you may bring any of these items to church in May and drop them off in the WELCA room.

Nativity's WELCA Group is sponsoring a special Coffee Hour NEXT Sunday, MAY 18 following worship. We will give a short description and demonstration of how we make the quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We will invite congregation members to design a quilt square for a special Nativity Quilt. Please plan to join us for this special event.

SPECIAL REQUEST: Nativity's WELCA Group is in need of cotton and/or cotton flannel sheets to be used as quilt backings. Please check your linen closets for used sheets that you no longer need. The preferred size is queen size, but we can adapt any size sheet to our needs. Sheets may be dropped off on the table in the Women's Room in the Education Wing.

Mark your calendars for our Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, June 1, 2025



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NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org The Rev. Jennifer Soltis, Pastor

Organist:

Alex Bednar

	Worship Assistant:	Ken Saunders	
	Lector:	Traci Saunders	
	Usher:	Ed & Carol Banks	
	Greeter:	Dan & Jean Chantz	
	Videographer:	Heather Johnson	
	Altar Guild:	Kim Brandt	
	Offering Tellers:	Nan Shuey & Dan Chantz	
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The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are presented by the Joe & Lori Coon in honor of their anniversary and by Kevin & Pam Hoskins in honor of their anniversary.

	For the Week	<u>x of May 11-17</u>				
TODAY	Y Christian Education Meeting					
MONDAY	Art Group – 1pm					
AA meeting – 7pm						
TUESDAY	JESDAY WELCA – 10am					
Council Meeting – 7pm						
SATURDAY Synod Election of new Bishop						
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	In-person	YouTube	<u>Offering</u>			
May 4	41	36	\$ 2,734			

YTD Financial Summary as of March 31, 2025

Revenue YTD \$ 130,690 <u>Expenses YTD \$ 157,381</u> Difference YTD (-\$26,691)* *includes the \$20,000 roof repair project

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