+ TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

November 10, 2024



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St. West Allis, WI 53214

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Pastor:Joseph M. BergPhone:414-810-3392Email:revjberg@gmail.com

Pianist:Kathy WeChurch Choir:Lois BuskChildren's Choir:Peter Her

Kathy Weigand Lois Buske Peter Hermanson

About Our Worship Service

Welcome in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Our message is as old as God's Word to mankind: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to take away our sins. We gather for the Divine Service not merely for the sake of ritual or tradition. Nor do we come to worship primarily to give something back to God. Rather, we meet together to hear and receive what God has done for us. In Word and Sacrament, our gracious Lord gives those who believe in him forgiveness of sins, unity with him in new life, and the promise of eternal salvation in heaven! Through this same gospel he motivates and equips us to follow his holy will for our lives. We hope that you are comforted with the message of Jesus Christ's love for you as you worship today. Please join us again soon!

Visitors

Thank you for joining us for worship! Please read the following notes about our congregation. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please speak with the pastor.

Our Practice of Closed Communion

If you have not communed with us before, please read the notes printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Our Holy Communion Practices."

Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the downstairs fellowship hall. A wheelchair accessible restroom is located at the front of the church, through the doors to the left of the chancel.

Guest Book

If you feel comfortable doing so, please sign our guest book located in the narthex so we can have a record of your visit.

Parent's Room

Parents with crying children are welcome to use the parent's room, located off the narthex.

Chair Lifts

Chair lifts are located off the northwest entrance for those who need to go to the fellowship hall on the lower level but have difficulty with stairs.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 27

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Season after Pentecost
Live Like You'll Live Forever

"Live each day like it's your last." You have probably heard that advice. It sounds wise – an encouragement to take advantage of the time you have. However, that advice is completely backwards. Because the reality is, thanks to Jesus, we have an unending amount of time. Jesus has given you the gift of eternal life! You are going to live forever! If you really thought it was your last day, that belief would shape how you lived that day. In this series, let us consider how the gift of eternal life shapes how we live each day. Live like you'll live forever!

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Live a Life of Startling Generosity

Perhaps you have heard the axiom, "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die." In other words, while you still can, use what you have in order to enjoy life to the fullest. If this life is all there is, St. Paul agrees that would be a good philosophy. Paul wrote, "If the dead are not raised, 'Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die" (1 Corinthians 15:32). However, note the "if." Paul was saying that the Epicurean approach to life makes sense only if this life is all we have. But it isn't.

God declares in his Word that Jesus will raise us from the dead and take us to live in his home, a place of perfect comfort and beauty. Knowing that, we are set free from the need to live a self-indulgent life now. Instead, we can be generous people, using the wealth that God has given us to serve both him and others. We can live a life of startling generosity.

The Service Setting One

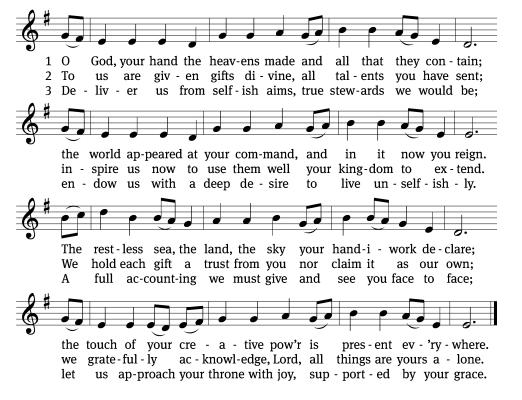
Welcome to God's house in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Please enter the sanctuary quietly so you and others can prepare your hearts for God's worship service. A personal prayer for before worship is printed on the first page of the blue hymnal. The hymns are located in the middle to back portion of the blue hymnal.

The Preparation

Opening Hymn

751 "O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made"



Text: Frank L. Cross, 1904–2001 Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, alt. Text: © 1961, ren 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: Public domain

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession

(1 John 1:8-9; Luke 18:13)

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

(Matthew 16:19; John 20:21-23)

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



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.



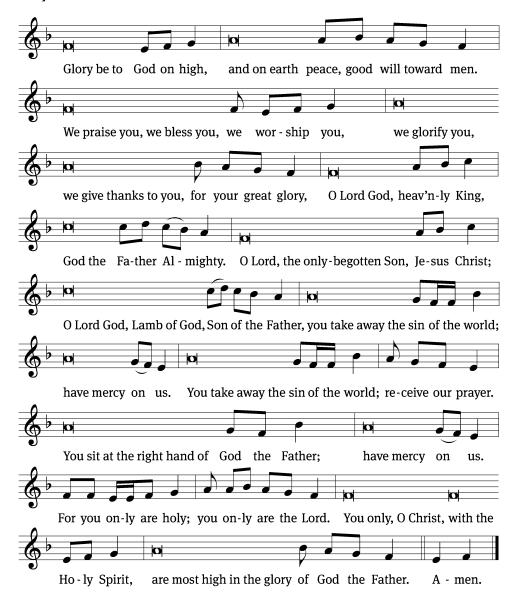
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



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



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The Word

Salutation

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in you. Grant us so firmly to believe in your Son Jesus that our faith may never be found wanting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

A widow generously offers up the last bit of food she has to serve the prophet Elijah.

⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹ "Get up! Go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there. I have commanded a woman there, a widow, to provide for you."

¹⁰ So he got up and went to Zarephath. He came to the city gate, and there he saw a widow gathering sticks. He called to her and said, "Please give me a little water in a jar, so that I can have something to drink."

"When she went to get it, he called to her, "Please bring me a piece of bread."

¹² She said, "As surely as the LORD your God lives, I have no food except a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a pitcher. See, I am gathering a couple of sticks so that I can go and prepare it for myself and my son, so that we can eat it and then die."

¹³ Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid. Go and do just as you said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from the flour and bring it out to me. Then go and make another for you and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says. The jar of flour will not run out and the pitcher of oil will not become empty until the day the LORD sends rain to water the surface of the ground."

(Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22)

(Matthew 7:7-11; Philippians 4:6)

1 Kings 17:8-16

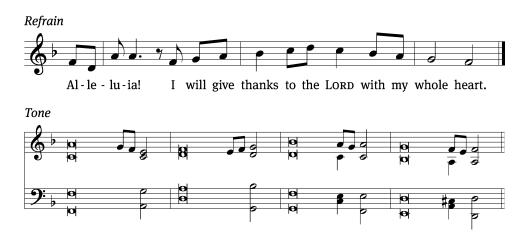
¹⁵ So she went and did exactly as Elijah said. He and she, as well as her household, were able to eat for many days. ¹⁶ The jar of flour did not run out, and the pitcher of oil did not become empty, just as the LORD had said through Elijah.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 111 B "I Will Give Thanks to the LORD"

The Church sings Psalm 111 in services where Christians marvel at God's gracious salvation.



Great are the works / of the LORD;

they are pondered by all who de- / light in them.

Glorious and majestic / are his deeds,

and his righteousness endures for- / ever.

Refrain

He has caused his wonders to be re- / membered; the LORD is gracious and com- / passionate. He provided redemption for his / people; holy and awesome / is his name. Glory be to the Father and / to the Son and to the Holy / Spirit, as it was in the be- / ginning, is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Refrain

Text: Book of Common Prayer, 1979 Tune: David Cherwien Setting: David Cherwien Music: © 1989 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: License no. 130002495

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

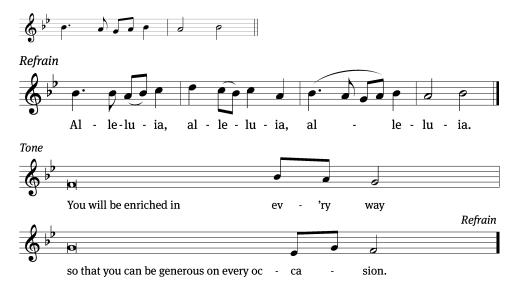
The believers in Macedonia demonstrate startling generosity in collecting an offering to help fellow Christians in need.

8 Now brothers, we want you to know about the grace of God that was given in the churches of Macedonia: ² In a severe test of trouble, their overflowing joy and their deep poverty overflowed into an abundance of their generosity. ³ I testify that of their own free will they gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability, ⁴ pleading with us with an urgent request for the gracious privilege of joining in this service to the saints. ⁵ And they did this not as we had expected, but in keeping with God's will they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us. ⁶ As a result we urged Titus, since he had already made a beginning, to bring to completion this gracious gift on your part. ⁷ But just as you overflow in every way—in faith, in word, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you also overflow in this gracious gift.

⁸ I do not say this as a command, but to test how genuine your love is, by comparing it with the eagerness of others. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



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Gospel

Mark 12:38-44

Jesus points to a poor widow as an example of startling generosity.

³⁸ He also said to them in his teaching, "Beware of the experts in the law who like to walk around in long robes and receive greetings in the marketplaces. ³⁹ They love the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and offer long prayers to look good. These men will receive greater condemnation."

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the offering box and was watching how the crowd put money into it. Many rich people put in large amounts. ⁴² One poor widow came and put in two small bronze coins, worth less than a penny. ⁴³ He called his disciples together and said to them, "Amen I tell you: This poor widow put more into the offering box than all the others. ⁴⁴ For they all gave out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all that she had to live on."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!** Hymn of the Day

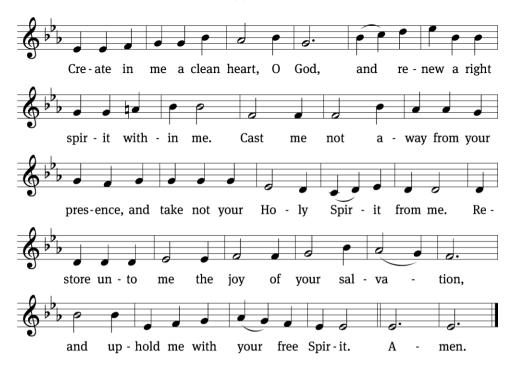


- 5 Well he knows what best to grant me; all the longing hopes that haunt me,
 - joy and sorrow, have their day.
 - I shall doubt his wisdom never;
 - as God wills, so be it ever;
 - I commit to him my way.

6 If my days on earth he lengthen, he my weary soul will strengthen; all my trust in him I place.
Earthly wealth is not abiding, like a stream away is gliding; safe I anchor in his grace.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Andächtige Haus-Kirche, Nürnberg, 1676 Tune: adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758; Johann Löhner, 1645–1705 Text and tune: Public domain Nicene Creed Credo (Romans 10:9-10; Philippians 2:10-11) We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. of all that is. seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Create in Me a Clean Heart (CW 942)



Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925–1989 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

Stewardship

Let us pray...

The Sacrament

Visitors, before approaching the altar, please read the notes printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Our Holy Communion Practices"

Prefaces

(2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 107:1)

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.

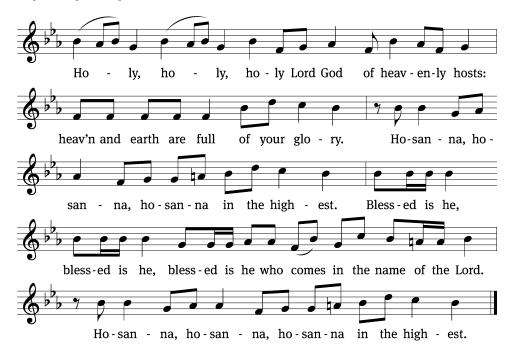


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

(John 1:3; Romans 8:32)

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution Verba (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

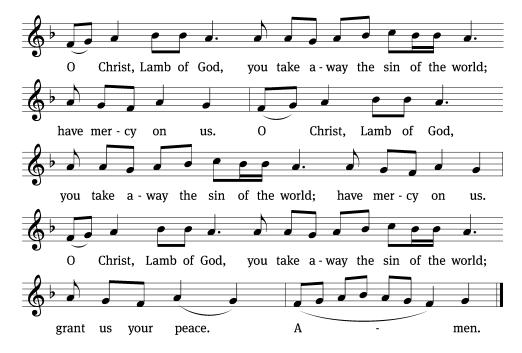
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Peace of the Lord Pax Domini

(John 14:27; 20:19; 2 Thessalonians 3:16)

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**



Distribution of Holy Communion

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 2:42)

As he distributes the elements, the minister says to the communicants:

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen.

The blood of Christ, poured out for you.

Amen.

As he dismisses the communicants, the minister says:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Amen.

Distribution Hymn

365 "Lord, You Were Rich beyond All Splendor"



Text: Frank Houghton, 1894-1972 Tune: French

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Distribution Hymn



Text: Gregory J. Wismar, b. 1946 Tune: ed. William Moore; Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1825 Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: Public domain

Our Holy Communion Practices

(Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:27-29; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 John 1:3; 2 John 9-11)

Visitors

Before approaching the altar to receive Holy Communion, please read the following notes:

The Holy Bible teaches the celebration of the Lord's Supper is an expression of unity in faith and teaching. To be "in communion" means to share and hold in common. By receiving Holy Communion, we are not only sharing Christ's true body and blood, but we are also confessing that we publicly hold in common the same teachings of God's Holy Word.

We therefore invite to Holy Communion only those Christians who share the same teachings to which we hold, all the while recognizing the true spiritual unity and fellowship of all believers in God's Holy Christian Church (i.e. the Communion of Saints). Confirmed members of Nain and confirmed visiting members of sister congregations in the WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) and the ELS (Evangelical Lutheran Synod) are welcome to commune with us.

If you are a member of another Lutheran synod, another Christian denomination, or of another belief, we ask that you refrain from communing with us at this time. We do this out of love and in accordance with God's words through St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29. The pastor would be happy to speak with you if you have interest in communing in the future or have any other questions or concerns about our practices. Thank you for your patience and understanding, and for respecting our beliefs.

Communicants

"Christian Questions," a guide for personal preparation before receiving Holy Communion is printed on pages 295-296 in the hymnal. Prayers for before and after communing are printed on the first page of the hymnal.

The usher will direct you to the front of the nave, where you will commune. When the pastor distributes the bread and body of Christ, he will say, "The body of Christ, given for you." When he distributes the wine and blood of Christ, he will say, "The blood of Christ, poured out for you." Before consuming the sacramental elements, you may respond to the pastor's words by saying, "Amen" (which is Hebrew for, "Truly," or "Yes, it is so") as a way to confess your belief that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of your sins.

Children and Non-Communicants

Children and other non-communicants are welcome to approach the altar to receive a blessing from the pastor. He will make the sign of the cross on the head of each and say, "The Lord bless you." Non-Communicant adults are asked to cross their arms over their chest to indicate that they do not intend to commune.

Please stand as the canticle is introduced



Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925–1989 Text and tune: Public domain

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Proclamation

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (Psalm 118:1)

(1 Corinthians 11:26)

Post-Communion Prayer

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy

Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

(Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

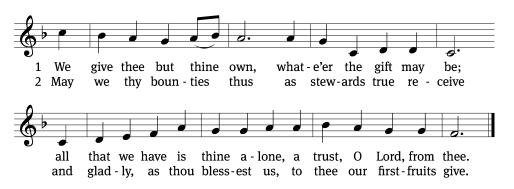
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

Closing Hymn

750 "We Give Thee but Thine Own"



Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, abr. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889 Text and tune: Public domain

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A **personal prayer for after worship** is printed on the first page of the hymnal.

If you have an offering, you can place it in the collection box located in the narthex. If you wish to give your offering via <u>PayPal</u>, you can scan the QR code on the last page of this bulletin. Thank you for your financial support of our congregation!

Thank you for joining us as we together worshiped our Triune God. The Lord be with you this week!

Special thanks to: Kathy Weigand for playing piano... Peter Hermanson for serving as distribution assistant... Luther Schmeling for serving as usher... Joe Lopina for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream... and Lois Buske for serving on Altar Duty.

For more information about today's Scripture readings, the current season of the Church Year, and the words and symbols featured on the paraments, please visit the "<u>Worship Resources</u>" page of our website to read this Sunday's "**About the Propers**," a weekly document that explains the changeable parts of the service.

All worshipers are encouraged to take home a copy of our **weekly newsletter**, the "Nain Messenger" to stay informed about all congregational news. Printed copies are available on the countertop in the narthex.

"**The Congregation at Prayer**," a document offering suggestions for daily devotions and Scripture readings, is also posted on the "<u>Worship Resources</u>" page of our church website.

"Understanding Lutheran Worship" provides excellent information about the Lutheran Liturgy, the Christian Church Year, and the Books of the Bible. A copy of the booklet is located in the hymnal rack of each pew.

> Nain is a member congregation of the **Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod**. For more information about our synod, please visit its website: <u>www.wels.net</u>



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