



Happenings at NLC

March 2020

Monthly Newsletter

“With the birth of Jesus in our hearts,
we carry light and love to the world.”

Worship Services 8:30am & 11am

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1:

**5:00PM— Lenten Soup & Sandwich
(Winemiller Hall)**

5:45PM— Lenten Service (Sanctuary)

Upcoming Events

March 14 - Friendship Outing: Art in the Park

March 17 - Presidential Primary Election
Voting at NLC

March 23 - Council Meeting. 6:00PM (Al Lien)

March 29 - Conversation with Pr. Giuseppe
9:45AM Winemiller Hall

Please visit our website at
www.nlcww.org to view
the NLC calendar, submit
requests for dates/events,
download sermons, among
other things.



6363 Commercial Way, Weeki
Wachee, FL 34613 • 352-597-1456 •
www.nlcww.org

SPIRITUAL LIFE

SOUL SEEKERS - March 9, 2020, 7:00PM. We would like to welcome you to be a part of a Spirituality Group at Nativity Lutheran Church. This group is designed to support and encourage our relationships with God as we face the challenges and joys together. We meet the second Monday of the month from 7:00PM to 9:00PM, in the Sanctuary. This group is open to all.... young, not so young, male, female, community members, members, friends, anyone who is seeking and has a willingness to explore their relationship with God is welcome! Questions please contact Michelle Mehan-Conklin at 727-267-1047 or email at shelltbf@hotmai.com.

ALTAR GUILD – March 18, 2020, 10:00AM. We invite anyone (male or female) to attend one of our meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:00AM (to find out what we do and how we do it). If you have any questions you would like answered before that, please call **Janet DeVico at 352-597-0150.**

WEDNESDAY SERVICES DURING LENT IN MARCH & APRIL.

Lenten Services will be held at 5:45PM. Prior to the service, please join us for “Soup & Sandwiches” in Winemiller Hall from 5-5:30PM.

- March 4 -** Christ emptied and humbled himself
- March 11 -** Christ became obedient
- March 18 -** At the name of Jesus all knees shall bow
- March 25 -** Every tongue confesses Jesus
- April 1 -** Let the same mind be in you

WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25 & APRIL 1 — Lenten Soup and Sandwich, 5:00PM. Each week the various committees/groups at Nativity will host Soup & Sandwich Suppers prior to the Wednesday Lenten services. They will be held in Winemiller Hall and everyone is welcome. The sign-up list for the committees/groups that are hosting is on the kiosk in the narthex. We are always looking for people to help with the Lenten Suppers. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Alexis Peterson at 814-490-3828.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, HEALING SERVICE. On the fifth Sunday of the month, the worship service will include a prayer for healing.

DEAR LORD, thanks to our Nativity Family for their kind prayers and condolences as our son Mitch makes his final journey...home. Amen. Love, The Chases

EASTER LILIES - we will be accepting orders for Easter Lilies beginning Sunday, March 22. These lilies will adorn our sanctuary April 12th, Easter Sunday's Celebration of our risen Lord. Following the 11:00AM service, you may take your lily home to enjoy.

ABSENCE OF FLOWERS. There are no flowers displayed in the church during Lent: therefore, there is no flower sign-up sheet. If you would like to dedicate the bulletin to someone in place of flowers, the suggested donation is \$20.00. The bulletins would then be in honor or memory of that person. *Please call or stop by the office with your request, 352-597-1456.*

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who had any part in my ordination. The day was Spirit-filled. I know many people worked tirelessly on details from getting the church ready, to signage, to the reception, to those who assisted with worship, and the many office tasks. I am forever grateful. Bishop Suarez was complimentary of the hospitality. Again, thank you all for your support on my journey to get to this day. The generous gifts will be used for fabric for additional stoles, help with my cross and other items for my ministry.

Peace and blessings, Michelle Mehan

MIDDAY PRAYER - Weekdays at 12:30PM. The Midday Prayer is a brief break during the day to find rest and renewal in prayer. All are welcome. People may gather for a few moments together at **12:30PM every day** and then go about the rest of their day or if they would like, they can stay longer in prayer in the sanctuary. Please join us and help spread the word.

NLC'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - Every service is easily accessible from Nativity's website. **ALSO**, Sunday night at 6pm, tune in to WZEU-FM 102.9 on your radio for a rebroadcast of our previous week's Sunday Service. If you are Interested in sponsoring one of the services broadcast on WZEU in memory or honor of someone, the cost is \$25. Put your donation in a green envelope, mark it WZEU, and place it in the offering plate.

OUTREACH

MISSION OF THE MONTH - GOLDEN RAINBOW RANCH

Golden Rainbow Ranch is a non-profit organization that is located on a 10 acre farm in Brooksville, which was started by two retired teachers. The purpose of the farm is to provide children an opportunity to interact with farm animals and discover nature in a peaceful setting. The children feed and brush the animals and look for chicken and duck eggs. They can explore nature up close using a microscope to see insects, leaves, feathers, plants and other items they might find interesting. Arts and crafts are also included in the educational experience. Golden Rainbow Ranch has provided wonderful volunteer opportunities for many people in Hernando County, including public school students. At a suggested donation of \$10-\$20 per child, they continue to work with special disabled children, host birthday parties and field trips for any organization, school or family. Ali and her husband David could really use our financial support to provide the needs necessary to support their mission outreach for all the children. If you wish to help, please use a green pew envelope and indicate Golden Rainbow Ranch, but make your check payable to Nativity Lutheran Church OR here is a wish list of items: plastic covers for 8 ft. rectangular tables; black sharpies, thin or thick; dry cat food; wet single serving cat food; poultry waterers and feeders; any art and craft supplies; paper towels; used or new tennis balls for dogs and kids to play with; paper plates; styrofoam plates; 1 inch binders with pockets; and any amount gift cards to Lowes; \$25 gift card to Amazon or Visa.

For questions, please call Lilo Horeis (352) 666-7584.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Youth Group meets Thursday evenings at 6:00PM for devotion and fellowship. Meetings are held at Nativity in the Youth Room.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL - every Sunday, **9:45AM-10:45AM**. Classes for children **3 and up!**

CONFIRMATION CLASS - March 1 & 15 at 9:45AM-10:45AM. We will start out in Al Lien Hall for music practice, then proceed to the Library. This year the confirmands will be studying Lutheranism and specifically Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

NEW MEMBER CLASS - On March 28 at 9:30AM we will be having a new member class. Please indicate on the pew card with your name and phone number if you are interested in attending.

COMMUNITY LIFE

A CONVERSATION WITH Pr. GIUSEPPE - MARCH 29 at 9:45AM. This is an opportunity to share some time with Pr. Giuseppe and express appreciation or concerns for our life together. All are welcome to join in the conversation which will be held in Winemiller Hall.

WOMEN OF NATIVITY

All women members of Nativity Lutheran Church are automatically members of W.O.N. and are welcome to participate in all sponsored activities of W.O.N.

PAINTING CLASS - Wednesday, March 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2020, 10AM-12PM. We meet every Wednesday in Al Lien Hall. For more information, contact Germaine Major at 352-686-0416, or Penny Morman at 352-888-1829.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, MARCH 14, ART IN THE PARK. We will again enjoy Art in the Park at 301 Darby Lane in Brooksville on Saturday, March 14. This is a large, juried fine art and craft show in a beautiful, shaded park. We will meet at Nativity at 10:00AM to carpool, bringing along our lawn chairs to set up for a free 1:00PM Hernando County Symphony Orchestra concert. We will enjoy devotions, a short meeting, and lunch, which can be purchased or brought from home. This outing involves walking. If anyone other than Friendship Circle members would like to join us, please call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

CARDS R US - Wednesday, March 4 & 11, 2020, 12:30PM -3PM. Cards R Us will meet to craft cards in Al Lien Hall. All are welcome to join us as we get creative and socialize. All supplies are provided. Profits from donations for our greeting cards, which we make from used greeting cards, are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund. He utilizes this money to help people in one-time emergencies. Kids, we can use any of your used greeting cards. St. Patrick's Day is the 17th. Check out our selection of green shamrock and elf cards! For more information, you can contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

MARY JOY CIRCLE - Thursday, March 12, 2020, 12:30PM Our monthly Bible study continues on Thursday, February 13, 2020, at 12:30PM in Al Lien Hall. All women of Nativity are invited to join us for fellowship and Bible study (led by Cam Martin). We look forward to welcoming you. For more information, please contact Evelyn Lawlor at 352-835-7784.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - Thursday, March 19, 2020, 9:00AM.

Days for Girls is a non-profit organization formed to help girls in developing countries stay in school. Through the Trompeter Fund and Thrivent Financial, WON (Women of Nativity) have been able to participate in this life-changing mission. Please consider joining us. For more information, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

SARAH CIRCLE - Thursday, March 22, 2020, 10:00AM -

12:00PM. We meet the 4th Thursday of every month. If you enjoy making shawls, please join us. For more information, contact Peggy Sanders at 352-382-1781.

CRAFTY LADIES - Fridays, 9:00AM - 11:00AM.

We are a group of approximately 17 women, who meet every Friday morning at Nativity from 9:00AM until 12:00 noon. These dedicated ladies, iron, cut squares, pin and sew the quilts together, and tie a knot in every square. Please come and join us. Questions? Call Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 8:30AM.

Please join us at **PERKINS RESTAURANT**, 4685 Commercial Way, Spring Hill, for fellowship and breakfast. For more info on this group, please call Jim Christensen at 352-683-9141.

THE LAST NATIVITY CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT will take place on March 15 at Brooksville Country Club (23446 Links Dr, Brooksville, FL 34601). Please be at the course by 1:30PM. You will get your team assignment at that time. Tee time is 2:00PM sharp. Dinner afterwards is TBD. A sign up sheet is on the kiosk in the Narthex. More info to follow. Any question, please contact Jim Runyan at 609-385-6679.

We always have a great time, and best of all you do not need to know how to golf. So think about joining us at our last tournament in March, or when we start again in September. Below are pictures of our first place and second place team.

First Place Team: Al Wright, Beryl Clements, Suzanne Chelf, Dan Derenski (not pictured)



Second Place Team: Joe, Beury Simons & Paul Rizzo



COMMUNITY BAND FORMING AT NATIVITY - Nativity member Mark Hengesh has been in the process of forming a community concert band which will be based here at Nativity Lutheran Church. The group will be called the Weeki Wachee Winds, and will be open to any musicians from high school age through post-retirement who play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Weekly rehearsals will be Thursday evenings in Winemiller Hall from 7 - 9PM, and will end April 23. The band will play at the 11:00AM service on April 19, and play a concert at Nativity on Thursday April 23 at 7:30PM. Mark is a retired band director with 40 years of experience in the Chicago suburban area, directing groups at the elementary, high school, community college and community band level. For more information, or to donate usable instruments, or funds, contact Mark at 630-244-5105, email at: director.wwwinds@gmail.com, or most Sundays in the choir loft. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors who may be interested.

PATTER FROM PATTI

We were so excited to have so many participants at our spaghetti dinner night. Hope you all had a great time! After 15 years of chairing fellowship, I still can never figure out what a popular event will be. You all surprise me. I want to take this opportunity to thank Pat Runyan; she has really stepped up to co-chair since my health has been a challenge. Thank you, Pat! Here is what we have left for the season:

Friday, March 27th, Mama Mia at the Show Palace.

There are no more tickets available for our group plan. On Sunday, March 8th, we will put information in your Nativity mailbox telling you what table you will be at and any other pertinent information. Be sure to check your box.

Monday, April 27th, Mystery Dinner. Meet at church at 4:00PM for appetizers and information on our selected restaurant. If you have never come to a mystery dinner before, give it a try. You will join with others to follow the instructions on how to get to the restaurant, where you will order and have a great meal. If you want to join us, we will be accepting \$10 deposits starting on April 5th, [not Easter]. When you arrive at church the day of the dinner, you will receive your deposit back. The easiest way is to just give us a check made out to Nativity Fellowship, and we will return the check to you.

This will be the final event of this season. Hope to see you there!

We are still waiting for the material for the new tablecloths; half has arrived and the rest is backordered. When we get it all, we shall proceed. If you have questions about anything please contact me @ 352-797-9682.

Patti Cotter

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Attendance: January's attendance was lower than 2019 at this time, but closer in numbers to 2018. January 2020 also had 5 Sundays vs previous years.

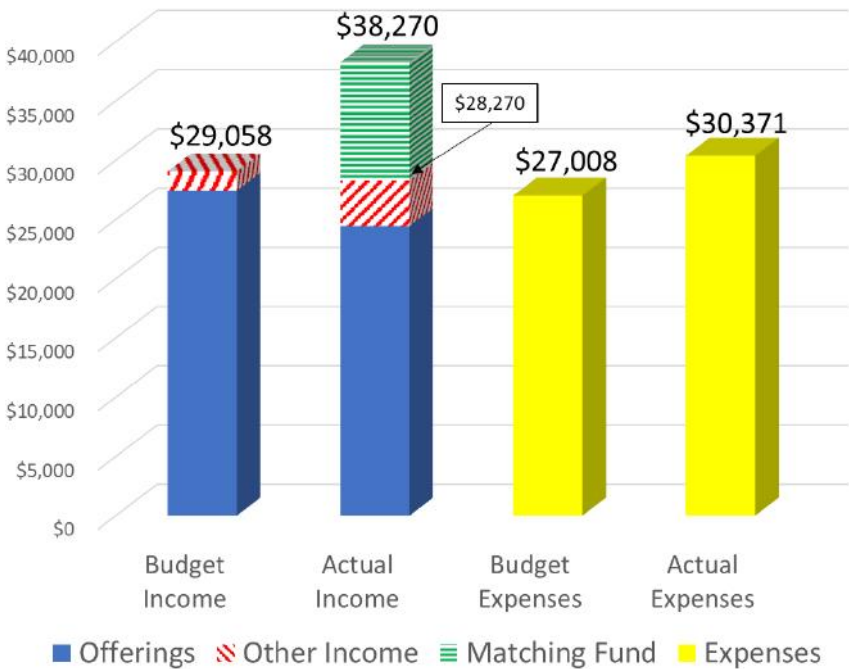
Income: January saw an increase in income from Other Income Sources: money came from a bequest, facilities usage and the Matching Fund Donor. NLC received matched funds of \$9999.88 from December 2019 giving increases. This amount, in addition to a \$2500 bequest and \$515 from our facility users, helped to augment regular giving by \$12K.

Future Giving: NLC is on its way to additional matching funds this quarter. The Harmonizers concert brought in an additional \$681.50+. You, our congregants, can add to that fund by increasing your weekly/monthly/quarterly giving from your 2019 amount. Let's do this together to receive the maximum matching funds!

Expenses: Expenses for January were more than budgeted due to the wax removal and re-waxing of NLC’s Administration Building which includes Winemiller Hall, Al Lien Hall and administration offices. However, NLC’s utilities were less than expected, saving us nearly \$300. Overall, expenses exceeded budget by \$3300.

Questions: Email me at jetgal55@gmail.com regarding income. Expense questions should be directed to the Treasurer, Ev Galli. --Jane Henkel

2020 Year-To-Date Income and Expenses
(Through January)



Questions: jane.henkel@nlcww.org



COUNTERS NEEDED — Every week donations are counted by a group of volunteers. For more information, please call Ernie Horeis at 352-666-7584.

AV OPERATORS NEEDED. The audio operator makes sure the congregation can hear the spoken word and music. Please consider helping to take on this very important (yet simple) task. Call Art Alt at 352-596-1585 for more info.

COMMUNION MINISTRY HELP NEEDED. With so many of our members being temporarily (after surgeries and medical procedures) or permanently housebound, more people are needed to bring them Holy Communion. Please contact Pastor Giuseppe. A short training is all that is needed.

HELP WANTED. THE WOMEN OF NATIVITY ORGANIZATION is looking for volunteers to represent Nativity at the Hernando County Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Veteran Court graduations. If you would like to learn more about this program, or would like to volunteer, please contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

GARDEN HELP WANTED! We need your help to maintain the gardens at the entrance of the administration building. The garden serves as a bright spot for the church and as a welcome to all. Only light weeding, watering and cleaning of the bird baths is needed. Sign up is for one month, but usually it is only necessary to tend to the garden once a week. No experience necessary. Any questions, contact Linda Wagner at 352-799-8577 or JoAnne Berg at 352-428-0156.

REMINDERS

OFFICE HOURS - Monday - Friday: 9AM-2PM

MAILBOXES: When you come to church, please take a moment to check your mailbox in Winemiller Hall and see if anything was left for you.

NEWSLETTER: If you would like to have something included in the **April** newsletter, please submit it to the office by **March 15**.

NLC CALENDAR: You can view it on the website, www.nlcww.org. If you do not have access to the website, please let us know and we can arrange for you to receive a printed copy. In addition, on the website you can submit a request to schedule a meeting. We have many ministries scheduling meetings including non-NLC groups. If you need to reserve a room, please make sure you submit your request to the office. Submissions can be made using a form that can be obtained in the office, or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com or via the form on the website. This will help resolve any conflicts that may arise.

MISSION STATEMENT

With the birth of Jesus in our hearts
we carry light and love to the world.

VISION STATEMENT

We seek to become people who live the nativity by...

Giving Worship and Praise to our God: Presenting ourselves before God as adoring servants, who, in loving God, recognize that it is no longer we who are at the center of the universe, but the One to whom we are singing our praises.

Intentionally giving ourselves as Christ's servants: Participating in his mission in the world, helping those who need our help, both in our church family and in the world beyond: recognizing that there can never really be any peace or joy for us until there is peace and joy for others.

Opening our doors and our hearts to all people: Welcoming all to our fellowship, caring for all in Christian love, and reaching out with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Encouraging each other to grow in faith: Growing our understanding of the scripture and God's leading in our lives through study of the Word, meditation, and prayer; knowing that learning is not just a matter of the mind, but also of the heart, and that raising questions is sometimes of more value than finding answers.

Being responsible to God through the creative use of our income, possessions, time and talent; recognizing that loving our neighbor is not so much a feeling as it is an act of will, and that sharing what we have on behalf of the Kingdom of God is only giving back what was already God's to being with.

Celebrating the gift of life together: Loving our neighbor, losing ourselves and then finding ourselves, having discovered that the Good News means that it is impossible not to feel joy in the presence of the Savior.

OUR VALUES STATEMENT

We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

We recognize that God is making us, through grace, into a Fellowship that embodies and expresses the spirit of Christ. In this fellowship, there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of us are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28). We, therefore, welcome equally all people, regardless of religious office, position, possessions, education, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability or other distinctions. (Adopted 9/7/07)

March Birthdays

Evander Russell	03/02
Andreas Zybell	03/03
Pam Anderson	03/04
Barbara Hofving	03/04
Ernie Horeis	03/08
Donna Olsen	03/08
Alexis Peterson	03/08
Judith Dietz	03/10
Gloria Wright	03/10
Joanne Johnson	03/11
Eileen Smith	03/11
Marianne Mock	03/13
Deanna Corbidge	03/14
Cheryl Colombo	03/15
Clarence Crawford	03/15
Doug Siegert	03/16
Dorothy Outhouse	03/17
Leonore Kopitzke	03/19
Janet Wilkens	03/20
Elmer Martin	03/21
Marilyn Henkel	03/22
Dana LaFranca	03/22



Kris Hyypio	03/23
Sean Patterson	03/24
Sandy Peeters	03/24
Amber Marie Oliver	03/26
Clyde Rosten	03/29
Pat Runyan	03/31

March Wedding

William & Windy Binns	03/05
Will & Glenna Schantl	03/09
Johnny & Brenda Mullins	03/18
Mark & Linda Hengesh	03/22
Gerald & Karen Flom	03/29

