



Happenings at NLC

March 2021

Monthly Newsletter

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

Worship Services 9:30am

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

MARCH 28, 2021

**Palm Sunday Service
9:30AM**



**Congregational Meeting
10:45AM**



Upcoming Events

- March 15 - Council Meeting, 4:00PM
- March 28 - Palm Sunday Service, 9:30AM
- March 28 - Congregational Meeting, 10:45AM
- April 1 - Maundy Thursday Service, 6:00PM
- April 2 - Good Friday Service, 6:00PM
- April 4 - Easter Sunday Service, 9:30AM
- April 17 - Trinkets and Treasures

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

Letter from the Council President

As we enter the month of March, we are hearing more about making appointments to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. I know many have experienced frustration as the process to schedule an appointment has changed frequently. For most of us, it has been a confusing and difficult process. Despite that, I have heard from many who have had their first dose and several who have had or will be getting their second dose. I pray that everyone in our church family will receive the vaccine soon. If you have received your vaccine, I am hoping you feel more comfortable about returning to church and worshipping together in person. We have missed seeing our church family and it will be such a blessing to be together again. I have personally stayed away from worship due to some personal health considerations. However, I will start back to worship early in March as I am receiving my second dose of the vaccine at the end of February. We all need to be cautious and to be mindful of our own health considerations, but I encourage you to return to worship as you become more comfortable with being in public spaces. We will continue to maintain safe seating distances and wear masks for as long as the CDC continues these recommendations.

I want to remind you that Council voted to postpone our Annual Meeting that would have taken place in January. We have tentatively scheduled it for 10:45 on March 28th, which is Palm Sunday. This meeting will be right after the morning worship service and will be held in the church sanctuary where we will be able to be spaced apart appropriately. You should have received a letter with information about this meeting. If you have not received a letter, please call the church office and Linda will make the information available for you. Our Annual Report will be presented and there are three constitutional and bylaw changes to be considered at this meeting. It is important that we hear your opinion concerning these changes as they address how our church is governed and operated. Please try to make every effort to attend this meeting and take part in these important discussions.

Please continue to pray for our church, our pastor, and our council. Remember your fellow church members and reach out to let them know you are thinking of them. A telephone call, an email, a card, or a text message can make a big difference for someone who has limited contact with others.

Blessings in Christ,

Ed Lewis

SPIRITUAL LIFE

LENT 2021 OUR JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Lent is a time of renewal, prayer, sacrifice and preparation. Lent is 40 days before Easter, not including Sundays. It is meant to represent the time Jesus spent in the desert. This year our journey to the cross is overshadowed by COVID. Things are still different. Nativity Lutheran Church will be offering a virtual mid-week service available every Wednesday beginning February 24. Worship will include parts of the Holden Evening Prayer, scripture, prayers and a reflection. This worship will give us time to reflect on our relationship with our Lord. How can we be present and listen to God's voice? How can we grow closer in our service and devotion to our Lord? Resources will include works from renowned author Henri J. M. Nouwen. The dates and topics are listed below:

February 24 - Focus

March 3 - Solitude

March 10 - Prayer

March 17 - Emptiness

March 24 - Hope

March 31 - Community

We look forward to having you join us on the Lenten Journey. Recordings of the prayers will be sent out weekly. For questions or more information please contact the church office.

UPCOMING SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK

Mark your calendars:

March 28 - Palm Sunday, 9:30AM

April 1 - Maundy Thursday, 6:00PM

April 2 - Good Friday, 6:00PM

April 4 - Easter Sunday, 9:45AM



EASTER LILIES - we will be accepting orders for Easter lilies beginning Sunday, March 7th. Special envelopes will be available in the narthex. These lilies will adorn our sanctuary April 4th, Easter Sunday's Celebration of our risen Lord. Following the 9:30AM service, you may take your lily home to enjoy.

ALTAR GUILD – March 29, 2021, 10:00AM.

We invite anyone (male or female) to attend one of our meetings which is normally held on the 4th Monday of each month (this month is an exception) 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 **Suzanne Chelf at 352-684-7329.**



COLUMBARIUM NEWS: You may have noticed more name plates are being placed on our Columbarium. We have only 4 single niches and one set of two together left. The purchase price for each niche is \$500.00. Our Columbarium is maintained by a committee of three. Dennis Rogers (chair), Ernie Horeis, and Buddy Kristoferson. It is conveniently located for visitation by loved ones and friends to visit.

GREETERS FOR SUNDAY MORNING

- We are looking for several people to welcome those coming to worship at 9:30am and take attendance as people enter



the narthex. No experience necessary. It's a great way to re-connect with our members and welcome our visitors. If you would like to help out, call Evelyn Galli at 352-684-2261 or see her before or after the Sunday service.



ABSENCE OF FLOWERS. There are no flowers displayed in the church during Lent to emphasize the somber tone of the season. If you would like to dedicate the bulletin to someone in place of flowers, the suggested donation is \$10.00. 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.*

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 - WORLD HUNGER

Have you ever really gone hungry? Have you wondered where the next meal is coming from? Well, millions of people have. The real sad part is that it includes children! Adults may have problems in securing the next meal, but it's worse for children. They do not have the ability to find their next meal; therefore, they have to rely on us.

It is sad that so many people in this world go hungry. Even here in the United States. Much of it due to weather conditions such as hurricanes, tornados and floods. Plus: poverty, insurrection, dictatorships and the economy. Now we are experiencing a still greater threat due to the pandemic known as coronavirus (COVID -19). This horrible disease has caused much of the shortage due to the closing of so many businesses, and the unavailability of personnel due to illness or government restrictions. Not to mention hoarding done by so many people. Shortages are not only due to the aforementioned, but also by devious people. We cannot let this happen!

The sad part of this is that it's happening in Hernando County! Just check with our personnel manning our food pantry. This is yet another avenue needing your valued assistance. If you cannot provide food then you can just write a check to our church and mark the envelope for the Food Pantry.

We can also help universally. You can help. We can help. You are the answer. We are the answer.

We need your donations. Your box of offering envelopes includes envelopes for ELCA WORLD HUNGER. YOU can also use the green offering envelopes, or just a plain white envelope marked for ELCA WORLD HUNGER. Just write a check and mail it to Nativity Lutheran Church, 6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee, FL 34613.

Thank you for your help.

Yours in Christ

Jim Christensen

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM UPDATE:

Projects submitted:

1. Girl Scout Brownies - cookies for our military - Tim Horeis
2. Days for Girls - material for health kits - Vivian Deon
3. Trinkets and Treasures - food for volunteers - Clyde Rosten

Projects still available:

1. Nativity Food Pantry - animal food
2. Nativity Sarah Circle - material for prayer scarfs
3. Nativity Cards R Us - material to make cards
4. Lighthouse for the Blind - a meal
5. N.A.M.I. (National Alliance on Mental Illness) - material for patients/clients

Contact Ernie Horeis at 352-666-7584, for any questions or assistance.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL - suspended until further notice.

CONFIRMATION CLASS continues with the study of the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament). The class is still on-line due to Covid-19 every Sunday at 11:00AM via Zoom.

COMMUNITY LIFE

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.



MARCH 20TH IS NATIONAL QUILTING DAY

Give thanks for all quilters, especially Crafty Ladies. This year we made 90 quilts. They are beautiful.

~Mary McDowall

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE AND CARDS R US will not be meeting in March. We hope to meet again in April. For more information, you can contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - Will most likely start up again in April. Watch weekly announcements for updates. Please consider joining us. For more information, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

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 16, 2021, 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 NEXT NATIVITY CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT

will take place on March 21 at Rivard Golf Club, 18001 Rivard Blvd, Brooksville, FL 34604. Please be at the course by 1:30PM. You will get your team assignment at that time. Tee time is 2:00PM sharp. 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 tournament in March.



TRINKETS AND TREASURES PART 2 - Saturday, April 17. Our fundraising event last October was a success and we are having another one this spring. We are looking for donations of various items. Things we will accept are as follows: dishes, glassware, kitchen items, pictures, books, toys, CDs, DVDs, DVD players, computers, speakers, small appliances, holiday decorations, tools, and knick knacks in good condition. Items that we will NOT accept include: clothes, large appliances, TVs, Christmas string lights, and furniture. As items are dropped off, help is needed to sort through them, label and put away. I am looking for several people who could help me. Time/days are flexible. Help is also needed the week prior to the sale as well as the day of the sale. If you can donate your time, please call Evelyn Galli at 352-684-2261 or 516-909-3119.

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY

REPORT FOR JANUARY 2021

Attendance: Average weekly online attendance was down from November and December 2020. January's figures may be a reflection of higher attendance the previous months due to the holiday season. In-person attendance remains steady. With more of our worshippers becoming fully vaccinated, there has been a notable increase already in February. These numbers will be reported in February's Financial Secretary Report.

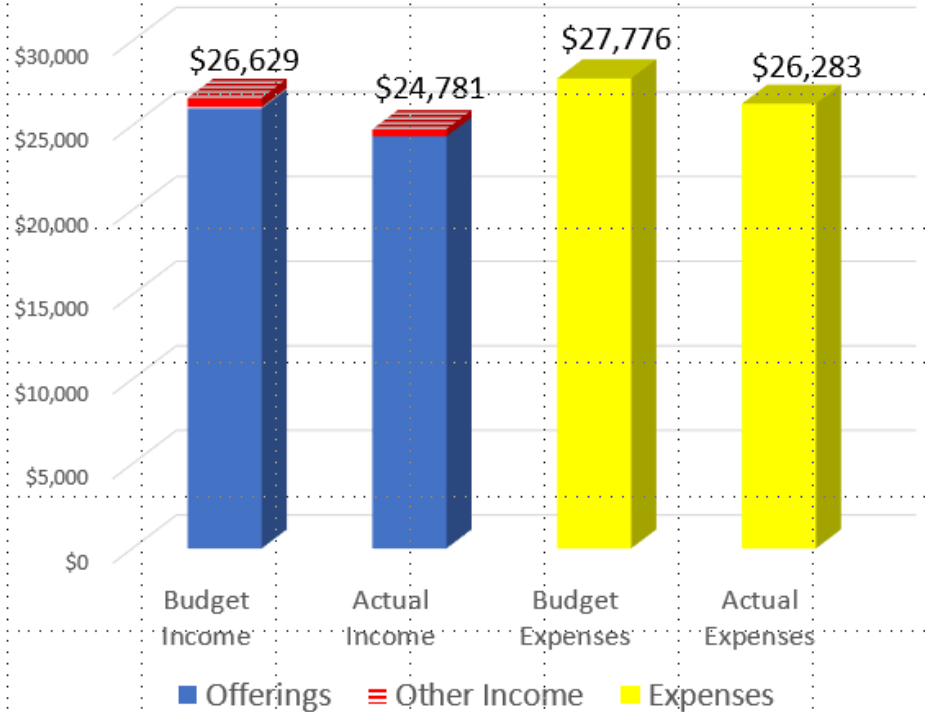
Income: NOTE: Figures to measure 2021 income have been derived from 2020 only. In past years, we have used the previous 3 to 4 year averages. With COVID still affecting our country, the NLC Finance Committee and Council have decided to use only 2020 figures for budget comparison. January 2021's giving was close to expected budget based on 2020's giving.

Expenses: Were down in January 2021 reflecting the month's overall \$1500 budget surplus. With NLC's reopening to a pre-COVID worship service happening soon, our expenses are likely to be more near budget.

Matching Funds: With the new year of 2021, full Matching Funds are available, again. We are grateful to have received the maximum of \$20,000 by mid-year in 2020 and used all of it to replenish the Maintenance Reserve Fund. This year, we are still eligible for the full \$20K by giving more than the previous year. If you need help with giving strategies or Matching Fund eligibility, please feel to contact Jane Henkel at address below.

Questions: Jane Henkel at jetgal55@gmail.com or Ev Galli at evgalli@bcany.com

2021 Year-To-Date Income and Expenses (Through January)



Questions: jane.henkel@nlcww.org

REMINDERS

OFFICE HOURS - Monday through Friday - 9AM-12N

NEW INTERNET SERVICE - we now have Spectrum internet and phone service. If you would like to connect to our internet when on campus look for **Nativity 2**, the password is **guest1234**.

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 or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **March 15**.

WE WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU - We understand that not everybody is online and receives the church information through emails, Facebook, or our web-based calendar. If you know of anyone that has not been able to attend church for some time, you may be the only link between them and Nativity. We would appreciate it if you would keep them included in the happenings at Nativity so that they may not miss out on activities or schedule changes. In addition, please let us know as well so that we can work to keep them in the loop about things at NLC. In addition, should you have a change in your address, phone number and/or email address, please let the office know.

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

Andreas Zybell	03/03
Barbara Hofving	03/04
Charlene Massey	03/05
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
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
David Ennes	03/24
Sean Patterson	03/24
Sandy Peeters	03/24
Diane Zabel	03/25
Amber Marie Oliver	03/26
Frank Alessio	03/29
Clyde Rosten	03/29
Pat Runyan	03/31

March Wedding Anniversaries

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

