

Happenings at NLC

October 2024

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

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30am Reverend Giuseppe Mattei



Upcoming Events

October 3 - Blessing of Animals

October 4 & 5 - Trinkets & Treasures
Sale

October 6 - World Communion Day

October 12 - New Members Class

October 19 - Pasta Bingo Night

October 19 - Prayer for Peace for the Holy Land

October 20 - Weeki Wachee Winds Concert

October 26 - Trunk or Treat

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

BLESSING OF ANIMALS - OCTOBER 3, at 11:00AM at the Humane Society of the Nature Coast 7200 Mobley Road, Brooksville, FL.

11:00AM - Blessing of the Animals 11:30AM - Light Refreshments 12PM - 4PM - Adopt-A-Pet

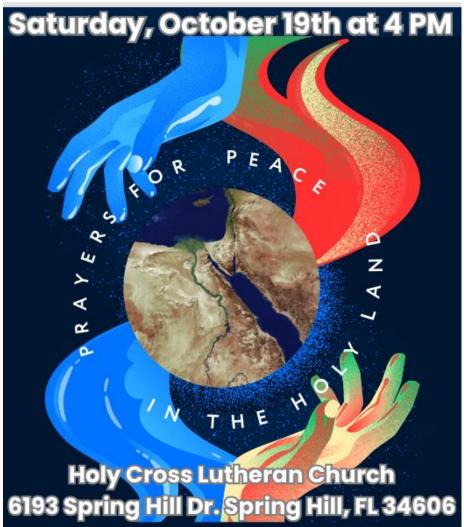
Bring your pet for a blessing. Invite your friends.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY - OCTOBER 6. This is a celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place on the first Sunday of every October, that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. The tradition originated in the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in 1933, was adopted throughout the US Presbyterian Church in 1936, and subsequently spread to other denominations. In 1940 the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches) endorsed World Communion Sunday and began to promote it to Christian churches worldwide. (This text has been taken from www.cute-calendar.com). A procession of national flags kicks off the celebration of World Communion Sunday. Volunteers will be needed to carry the flags in the procession. See weekly sheet for more information.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER: If you are interested in deepening your prayer life, Pr. Giuseppe will lead a new class on prayer on Tuesdays at 11:00AM starting on October 8 and ending on October 22, based on Martin Laird's "Into the Silent Land: A Guide to the Christian Practice of Contemplation." If you want to, you may purchase the book available on Amazon, and read it prior to the class. Pr. Giuseppe will provide a summary of the book.



BUILDING FAITH-FAMILY-FUTURE is the theme of our fall stewardship campaign. "Building on Faith" is not about a physical building. It means strengthening and growing in our faith, and moving in obedience to God when He directs us to go somewhere or do something, even when it doesn't look possible. "Building on Family" is not only meant to be our own church family but the church as a community. In fact, the Bible refers to followers of Christ as salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16), ones who influence others and provide pathways to wholeness and holiness by showing and sharing the unconditional love of God and commitment to his ways. The bigger our heart gets the more space there is for God to reside. And where God is, there is joy, peace, and love. For "Building on the Future" for Nativity to remain a vibrant church in the future, we need to demonstrate a greater awareness, involvement and commitment to local that impact physical, emotional, issues psychological, economic, and yes, spiritual needs of our community. Spiritually speaking, your pledge is your response to God's abundance in our lives. An intent card will be mailed to every household to pray over and consider your financial support to Nativity. With your help, we know that Nativity Lutheran Church's vision of building a strong future built on faith and family is in reach. We will be collecting the intent cards and will have a celebration on Sunday, October 20th.



All are welcome to unite with interfaith worship leaders, worshippers, and area groups and communities to pray for peace and unity in the Holy Land. A reception and time for fellowship, food, and interaction will follow this diverse and all-inclusive event.

REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 - Reformation Day, the anniversary of the day Martin Luther is said to have posted his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany (October 31, 1517), is later identified by Protestants as the beginning of the Reformation. The European Lutheran territorial churches first commemorated the Reformation on various days, among them the anniversary of Luther's birth (November 10), his death (February 18), and presentation of the Augsburg Confession (June 25). The centennial celebrations of 1617 focused attention on October 31. The liturgical color for the celebration is red. Please wear RED on this day.

ALTAR GUILD. Our next meeting is October 28, 2024, 10:00AM. We invite anyone (male or female) to attend one of our meetings which is held on the 4th Monday 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 Suzanne Chelf at 352-684-7329.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 - ALL SAINTS' DAY - Let the office know if you have had a loved one pass away during the last year (we have noted our members, so we are asking for non-members). Votive candles will be placed in the Baptismal Font area for you to light at the beginning of the service if you so choose.

CHRIST IN OUR HOME - We have received our copies of the Oct/Nov/Dec issue of Christ in Our Home. If you would like a copy they are available in the narthex, or stop by the office between 9:00AM and 12PM. A small donation would be appreciated to offset the costs of the devotionals. You can use a green pew card and mark it "devotionals". If you have any questions, or want to make sure copies are still available, please call the office at 352-597-1456.

COLUMBARIUM INFORMATION. Currently there are no niches available in the Nativity columbarium.

The Columbarium Committee is investigating the possibility of having another columbarium put in. However, before we purchase an additional columbarium, we would like to get a consensus from our congregation on whether there is a need to explore the purchase of another columbarium.

If anyone who is a member or associate member of the congregation is interested in reserving a niche, please fill out a white pew card and indicate it on the back of the card and place in the offering basket or you may contact the church office. If the response indicates a need, we will start working on purchasing an additional columbarium. Currently the cost for each niche is \$500, however that cost may increase depending upon the final cost of a new columbarium.

Please call Pat Squires at 352-667-1083 if you have any questions.

ALTAR FLOWERS. If you would like to purchase flowers for the altar in honor or memory of a loved one or event, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex on the kiosk. You can also call the office at 352-597-1456. Cost is \$25.00 per arrangement. For those people who have purchased bouquets, the Altar Guild will have them ready for you to pick up after the 9:30AM service. PLEASE, do not remove flowers from the altar. Members from the Altar Guild will remove them for you.

NLC'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - If you are traveling or unable to attend in person but have internet access, you may follow the service by clicking on the link made available on our web site (nlcww.org) or via email on Saturday, or watch a recording of the service during the week. Conversely, you may listen to Nativity Lutheran's Sunday Worship Service every Sunday night at 6pm. Tune in to WZEU-FM 102.9 on your radio for a broadcast of this week's Sunday Service.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAYS TOGETHER: 10 WEEKS TOGETHER IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

A time to eat together, sing together, study the Bible together, and pray together.

When: 6-8pm Sunday evenings, ending Dec. 15, 2024.

Where: Winemiller Hall, Nativity Lutheran Church

Leaders: Rev. Dr. Carlan Helgeson and others

Who should come:

- *Those who want to get to know others in the church better
- *Those who have never been to a Bible study (no judgment)

What you will learn:

- How those who lived in the Middle East in Jesus' day would have understood the meaning of the Gospel stories,
- 2) What the Gospel stories mean for our lives today

**Please contact Carlan Helgeson if interested in attending.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Every Sunday, children will start the worship service with their guardians, and will be dismissed at 9:45AM until communion time. Register by calling the church office (352-597-1456). Form are also available in the narthex. Any questions please call Noel Prettyman at 352-515-3345.

^{*}Those who want to learn more about the Bible

BIBLE STUDY EVERY SUNDAY - at 11:00 AM. Age 12 and up. Themes of the Old Testament (Creation stories, God's Promises, God's faithfulness) not just for personal knowledge and curiosity but for spiritual growth and transformation.

NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION CLASS - OCTOBER 12, 9A - 12N. If you are interested in membership, please contact the office to register. You will receive a packet to fill out for class. New members will be received on October 27.

OUTREACH

OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH - LUTHERAN GLOBAL MISSIONS.

The Global Mission Committee of the Florida-Bahamas Synod is involved with three Lutheran Churches abroad for mutual spiritual support and Christian fellowship. Our Companion Synods are the Eglise Lutherienne d'Haiti (ELH), the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Guyana (ELCG), and the Iglesia Evangelic Unita-Sinodo Luterano (IEU-SL) in Cuba. The funds collected during this period will go toward the support of our Lutheran congregations in Haiti. Please use a green envelope, mark it for Global Missions, and make the check out to Nativity Lutheran Church.

FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS

SHOPPING CART DONATION FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER IS:

Bags of candy for Trunk or Treat

While we will gladly accept any and all donations, we are going to highlight a couple of items each month that could help out.

TROMPETER FUND GRANT FORMS AVAILABLE -

Applications for 2025 grants from the David Trompeter and Dorothy Marie Trompeter Endowment Fund are now available in the church office. The applications must be returned to the church by December 31, 2024. Trompeter Fund grants are made to supplement "worthwhile ministries of Nativity Lutheran Church" and may not be used for ongoing budgeted programs or building programs of the church. The guideline rankings used for determining a grant include meeting human needs for food, water, and shelter; alleviating human trauma; religious education; and enriching the quality of life. Applications may be picked up in the church office or requested to be sent by mail by calling the office at 352-597-1456.

For questions about the grant process, please contact Carlan Helgeson of the Mission Endowment Committee at cdhelgeson@gmail.com.

ATTENTION ALL THRIVENT MEMBERS

The end of the year is almost upon us. If you don't know if you might have Choice Dollars left to designate to an organization or Nativity, please call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and ask. If you have not utilized your Action Team Project or projects, contact: Tim Cotter @ 352-797-9682, or Ernie Horeis @ 352-600-5908. Here are some suggestions:

- 1. Nativity Food Pantry
- 2. Trunk or Treat
- 3. Angel Tree
- 4. Lighthouse for the Blind
- 5. Friendship Circle
- 6. Homeless
- 7. Days for Girls
- 8. Crafty Ladies

MEMBER UPDATES

New Address: Patricia Brown

13184 Maycrest Ave.

Weeki Wachee, FL 34614

During challenging times and times of joy, arts can bring healing and unity.

The Arts Adventure offers monthly engaging opportunities to people of all ages (teens through active adults) in our area. Activities will include visual arts, theater arts, music and more. Hands on activities will help stimulate the mind, get creativity flowing, and keep all ages moving and grooving.

Intergenerational

Arts Adventure

Monthly engaging opportunities for people of all ages (geared toward tweens and up.)

Visual Arts ~ Theater Arts ~ Music ~ & More

Hands on activities will help stimulate the mind, get creativity flowing, and keep all ages movin' and groovin'.

Location: 6193 Spring Hill Dr. Spring Hill

Dates: 10/20, 11/17, 12/15

Time: 2-4pm

Email <u>artsadventureNCIC@gmail.com</u> with questions or to register.

*Registration ends one week prior to each class.

Space is limited. Register early!

The Arts Adventure is sponsored by the Nature Coast Inter-Faith Coalition (NCIC).

Celebrating our diverse faiths and traditions, NCIC brings people together to build understanding and serve our community. The Arts Adventure is supported through a Community Arts Grant from the Hernando County Fine Arts Council.



Mark Hengesh, Director Kathy Thompson - Guest Director Junior Benitez - Guest Director

FALL CONCERT

Program to Include:

October - Whitacre

Children's March - Grainger

The Klaxon - Fillmore/Fennell

Suite from "Hamilton" - Miranda/Brubaker

Blue Moon - Rodgers & Hart/Barker, Drema Leonard-Alan soloist

Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral - Wagner/Bourgeois

Fantasy on Yankee Doodle - M. Williams

Tam O'Shanter - Arnold/Paynter

Summer of "69 - arr. Ricketts

Arabesque - Schaffer

Saturday, October 19, 2023 - 2:00 pm

Spring Hill United Church of Christ, 4244 Mariner Blvd., Spring Hill

Free Admission - Donations Gratefully Accepted

Sunday, October 20, 2023 - 2:00 pm

Nativity Lutheran Church, 6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee

Free Admission - Donations Gratefully Accepted

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.

MARY JOY BIBLE STUDY - RESCHEDULED TO OCTOBER 9TH. All Women of Nativity are invited to join our bible study on October 9th at 9:45AM. For more information, please call Elva Posewitz at 352-584-9362.

2024 WOMEN OF THE ELCA FALL GATHERING – November 8-10, 2024 at Warren Willis Conference Center in Fruitland Park. Theme is "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." So far 8 women from Nativity are registered to attend. For more information, please contact Ellen Lapinski at 773-556-4466.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - our next meeting will be TUESDAY, October 15th and 29th at 9:00AM in Al Lien Hall. 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) has been able to participate in this life changing mission. For more information, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-410-0226.

CRAFTY LADIES - Fridays, 9:00AM - 11:00AM. We are a group of approximately 12 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 352-410-0226.

CARDS R US - Cards R Us will be making cards from your donated, used cards on first and second Mondays, October 7 and October 14, 10:00am to12:30pm, in Winemiller Hall. Kids, we would love to have your cards, when you're ready to part with them. They are popular sellers. Nativity, we appreciate all the support we receive from you, because this allows us to donate proceeds to Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help those in need. Please shop our kiosks for your birthday, sympathy, get well, anniversary, wedding and Halloween cards. Join us to experience the fun they are to make! For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352 -428-1918.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - OCTOBER 20. Friendship Circle's October activity will be the Weeki Wachee Winds' Fall concert on Sunday, October 20, at 2:00pm at Nativity. The program will include the Suite from "Hamilton" and Summer of '69. Nativity's Mark Hengesh conducts these talented musicians. Following the concert, we have reservations at La Bella Napoli, 7390 Shoal Line Blvd. 34607. It is a short 4.6 miles and 8 minutes from Nativity. If anyone other than Friendship Circle members would like to join us for dinner, please contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

CLUB 75. Our first lunch gathering for the fall will be October 22nd.

The only criteria to be part of this fellowship group is that you must be 75 years old or older!

We plan to gather for lunch at a local restaurant or club once a month for the purpose of fellowship and casual discussion. Transportation will be provided for everyone needing it.

Watch the bulletin and newsletter for details. You can also call Vicki Page with any questions (352-210-8407).

SARAH CIRCLE, OCTOBER 17 @ 10:00AM. Do you know someone who is undergoing a medical procedure, in need of comfort after a loss, desiring to increase their time of prayer or meditation, preparing for marriage, in the midst of an illness, recovering from surgery, or otherwise in need of prayer? *Prayer shawls are always available. All you need to do is ask!* When someone receives a prayer shawl, Sarah Circle (the women who sponsor the ministry and make the shawls) also prays for that recipient. If you enjoy crocheting or knitting, join Sarah Circle on the third Thursday of the month in the Youth Room at 10:00AM. Or, if you prefer, the prayer shawls can be made in your home. For information, call Peggy Sanders at 352-382-1781.

TRINKETS & TREASURES – The sale dates are Friday, October 4 and Saturday, October 5 from 9am-12pm.

We will need many volunteers to make it a success as follows:

- 1. Empty containers with donations on Monday, Sept. 30 (8:30am).
- 2. To help set up and price items Monday, Sept. 30-Thursday, Oct. 3 (generally from 9am-1pm).
- 3. To work on the 2 sale dates (we need a few people to come at 7am on Friday, Oct. 4 to empty items from the container that we will be selling outside).
- 4. To help break down on Monday, Oct. 7 (9am).

BAKE SALE: As we are having a bake sale both days, we would appreciate donations of cakes/cookies/brownies/cupcakes for Friday and Saturday. Please see or call Janet Jones at 352-232-0174 for more details.

TABLES/POP-UP CANOPIES: If you have a folding table and/or card table that we could borrow for the T&T sale, please call Evelyn at 516-909-3119 to arrange a drop off day/time. Make sure your name/phone number is clearly indicated on bottom of table so we can make sure it gets returned to you. Also, if you have a pop-up canopy we can borrow for the sale, it would be greatly appreciated. It can be dropped off between 9am-12pm Monday, Sept. 30 - Thursday, Oct. 3.

If you have any questions, please contact Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119 or Janet Jones at 352-232-1074.

PATTER FROM PATTI

After our first Fellowship Committee this season we have got some great events coming up. Yes, we do sell tickets, but we try to keep them as low as possible so people will participate. Here is what we have so far.

Saturday, October 19th, 5:00PM: PASTA BINGO NIGHT. We will serve a dinner of pasta, meatballs, salad, bread, cupcakes. After dinner we will start the Bingo games, with prizes available to the winners. We will start selling tickets on Sunday, September 29th. The tickets will be only \$5.00.

Tuesday, December 3rd at 10:30AM in Winemiller Hall, we need help to decorate a 12 ft Christmas Tree.

December 15 - after the Christmas Cantata we will be offering a gift of a free brunch, you just have to sign in before so we know how much to cook.

Other events we are still working on is: January 28th Mystery Dinner; March 15th Hamarama Talent Show. Anyone wanting to be a part of the talent show let me know. I am so lucky to have the Fellowship Committee we have and always welcome anyone else.

~Patti Cotter

THE EXVANGELICALS

The number of people who grew up in a so-called "evangelical church" and now have left that church with regret and relief continues to grow. Some call themselves "exvangelicals," and they are telling their stories in print and podcast. As they grew up and left home, they started recognizing the damage of their upbringing in a religion that was often abusive, punitive, threatening, and profoundly damaging to both mind and body.

It is our current political experience that revealed to many that misunderstood and distorted ideas of Christianity and patriotism are fused together in a new religion, Christian Nationalism, and are fueling the political hatred present in our (lack of) civic discourse.

One such book that tells this story personally, memorably, and cogently is Sarah McCammon's The Exvangelicals: Loving, Living, and Leaving the White Evangelical Church (St. Martin's Press, 2024, 270 pages).

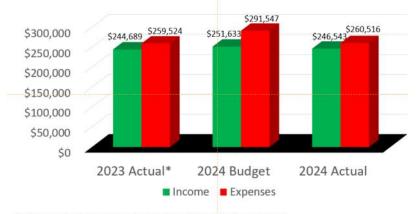
Sarah is a national political correspondent for National Public Radio. She says: "The evangelical impulse - the idea that . . . we have been given a unique understanding of the Truth about the most complex questions about reality, and which we must impose through persuasion or coercion has never made much sense to me when I survey the complexities of the world and the diversity of experiences and points of view. Even worse, that thinking seems to be at the root of so many evils that have been perpetuated throughout human history by religious fundamentalists and other extremist ideologues. I fear that same impulse is laying the groundwork for irreparable harm in our country and the world, and I fear that some of the people I have known and loved, and who've loved me, are being persuaded to aid and abet that evil." (265)

I recommend this book especially to any who claims a similar experience to Sarah's. The local library has a copy.

Phil Schroeder 08/26/2024

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY AUGUST 2024

2024 Income and Expenses (Through August)



^{* 2023} income and expenses do not include \$30,516.50 in storm damages.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Henkel at scott.henkel@capgemini.com.

WAYS TO DONATE TO NATIVITY. Nativity has a Venmo account. You can send a donation to: @Nativity-LutheranChurch. Also, if you prefer, Nativity has a Zelle account. Send to: nativitylutheran63@gmail.com. Also available is the QR code (see code on right) that is specifically for Nativity donations. Just point your phone's camera at it and a website address will pop up.



We are always looking for volunteers for various church duties. Volunteers are what help keep our church going and growing. If anything interests you please call the church office at 352-597-1456. THANK YOU!



October 26, 4PM-6PM Nativity Church parking lot

USHERS NEEDED. We need 2 ushers for our 9:30AM service. There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the narthex listing the Sunday service dates. Please sign up for whatever date(s) fits your schedule. Your time is greatly appreciated.

ACOLYTE AND CRUCIFER NEEDED. We are seeking individuals who would like to light the candles and/or carry the cross during our Sunday service. Please contact the office (352-597-1456) if you are interested. A short training is all that is needed. Your time is greatly appreciated.



October Birthdays

William Hockings	10/1
Barbara Crisanti	10/4
Darinka Lienau	10/8
Judith Brayman	10/9
Richard Wright	10/9
Nancy Vangilder	10/12
Mary Krol	10/12
Nancy Johnson	10/13
Germaine Major	10/15

Michael Capellupo

Karen Chipko

David Ristau

Pat Squires

Judith Seidl

Agnes Burkart

Donna Colombo

Mark Hengesh Sharon Schroeder



Nancy Trott	10/27
Edward Lewis	10/28
Evelyn Galli	10/28
Nick Hassis	10/28
Laura Nelson	10/30
Kathy Hackemer	10/31
David VanHorn	10/31

October Wedding Anniversaries

10/16

10/18 10/18

10/18

10/18

10/19

10/22

10/26

10/26

Germaine & Claude Major	10/8
Jena & Joe Kleiber	10/25



REMINDERS

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

INTERNET 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 **November** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **October 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.

CALENDAR: You on NI C can view it the 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

Working as a supportive family of faith to extend God's gracious welcome through worship, community service, and spiritual growth opportunities.

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)