



Happenings at NLC

January 2025

“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

- January 1 - Office Closed
- January 19 - Congregational Annual Mtg and Council Members Installed (during service)
- January 26 - Thankoffering Service
W.O.N. Meeting & Luncheon

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

In January, we remember the following saints:

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872, Thursday, January 2, 2025. Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.

Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710 (TFF), Thursday, January 9, 2025. African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968, Wednesday, January 15, 2025. An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356, Friday, January 17, 2025. One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346, Friday, January 17, 2025. Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.

Confession of Peter, Saturday, January 18, 2025. Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.

Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, died 1156, Sunday, January 19, 2025. When Erik, King of Sweden, determined to invade Finland for the purpose of converting the people there to Christianity, Henry went with him. Henry is recognized as the patron saint of Finland.

Agnes, martyr, died around 304, Tuesday, January 21, 2025. Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.

Conversion of Paul, Saturday, January 25, 2025. The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.

Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries, Sunday, January 26, 2025. These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith, Monday, January 27, 2025. Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274, Tuesday, January 28, 2025. One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.

Deepen your prayer life and learn about **CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER** every Monday in January starting on the 6th at 11:00AM in our library. You will learn about the ancient Christian methodology of Dwelling in the Word (or Lectio Divina) and how to use Centering Prayer to open up to the movement of God's Spirit in you. Then at 11:30AM, we will transit to the prayer corner in our sanctuary to pray practicing what we have learned in class.

Anyone who has attended the prayer class before may return for a refresher at 11:00AM, or join us for prayer in church at 11:30AM.

MEMORIAL SERVICES are planned for Diane Zabel and Jim and Rose Hennessey. Diane's memorial is set for Tuesday, January 7 at 11:00AM, and Jim's and Rose's memorial is on Saturday, January 25 at 11:00AM with interment at the National Cemetery at Bushnell on Monday the 27th at 11:00AM as well.

ALTAR FLOWERS. If you would like to purchase flowers 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.

ALTAR GUILD – January 27, 2025, 10:00AM. Members beautify the worship space and prepare the altar for our Sunday celebration. They also set up the sanctuary for the celebration of weddings and for funeral/memorial services. It is always a joy to make the necessary preparations to support everybody's worship experience. 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.**

THANKOFFERING SERVICE – SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025, 9:30AM. Thankofferings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. We give in thanksgiving for blessings received—and we do receive so many blessings, don't we? And we are so grateful. That's why we give Thankofferings. What do our Thankofferings support? The founders of Women of the ELCA decided back in 1988 that Thankofferings are to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization (see <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/>). Our ongoing ministries include our many online and printed communications channels, our justice and advocacy work, training and development for elected leaders throughout the women's organization, our constant work in support of congregational and synodical women's organizations, the administration of our grants and scholarship programs, all that goes into our triennial convention (the business meeting, that is), and so much more. A Thankoffering service is held on the last Sunday in January. A special collection will be taken up during the service to support the ministry of the Women of the Evangelical Church of America (WELCA).

CHRIST IN OUR HOME - We have received our copies of the Jan/Feb/Mar 2025 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.

Nativity celebrated the **Feast of Santa Lucia** on Sunday, December 8. ELCA congregations in the U.S. celebrate Santa Lucia Day as one that carries a message of the light and hope of Christ.



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

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

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.

OUTREACH

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH - FOOD PANTRY.

Nativity Lutheran Church operates a food pantry to help feed those in our community who are in need. Our food pantry is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Donations of non-perishable items are always needed and can be dropped off during church hours Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Money donations are also accepted. You can use the green envelope in the church pew and make sure to note "Food Pantry" on the envelope. For more information, please contact Janet and Todd Holly at 352-503-6215.

FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS

SHOPPING CART DONATION FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY IS:

Cans of condensed tomato soup and toothpaste.

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

THANK YOU to all the Thrivent Members who submitted Action Team Projects to help our Mission Outreach for local and worldwide communities. It was Thrivent's 10 year anniversary. Nativity's involvement: 20 projects a year for 10 years (200 x \$250.00 = \$50,000).

Past Nativity Action Team Projects: Sarah Circle (material for shawls); Girl Scout Troop (cookies, nuts & fruit for military); Trinkets & Treasures (food for volunteers); Rez House (school supplies); Autistic Children (clothing, snacks); Crafty Ladies (quilt batting); NLC Food Pantry (Easter & Thanksgiving hams); Angel Tree (Christmas meals); Lighthouse for the Blind (dots for equipment); Weeki Wachee Winds (music, stands, instruments); Fellowship Memorial Day Cookout; Police & Fire Department (stuffed animals for children); Friday TOPS (food pantry); Warmth in the Cold (blankets); Days for Girls (materials for hygiene kits); NLC Choir (music); ELCA Gifts (safe water, goats); N.A.M.I. (booklets); Salvation Army (food); Weekend Blessings (canned goods); Golden Rainbow Ranch (arts & supplies); NLC Cards R Us (supplies); Jericho Men (food, clothing); Jericho Animal Shelter (food); Pastor's Discretionary Fund; NLC Bell Choir (music); Food Pantry Hygiene (supplies); Veterans Day (refreshments); Christmas Cantata Breakfast (food & supplies).

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS. If you are a Thrivent Financial member, there is a good chance you get Thrivent Choice Dollars allocated every year for you to donate to a charity of your choice. This is charitable grant money the Thrivent Financial puts aside on your behalf based on the monies you have invested or paid into Thrivent Financial. Many people are unaware of these monies that exist for them. Are you one of them? If you are not sure, contact Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836, or check online at www.thrivent.com. You have until March 31, 2025, to get these dollars allocated.

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 - JANUARY 8TH. All Women of Nativity are invited to join our bible study on January 8th at 9:45AM. For more information, please call Elva Posewitz at 352-584-9362.

CARDS R US—JANUARY 6th and 13th. Card making days for January will be on Mondays, the 6th and the 13th, 9:30am-12:30pm, in Winemiller Hall. Everyone is invited to come and get crafty with us. Donations for the cards we make are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund. So join us as we get to know each other better, as we help those in need, and as we have fun! We also thank the congregation for your donations for Mimi's beautiful Christmas cards. We have been able to help more people in our community who have asked for financial assistance--a blessing to all of us. For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - our next meeting will be TUESDAY, January 7th and 21st 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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, JANUARY 18. We will take in some Tampa history on Saturday, January 18, when we carpool to the Henry B. Plant Museum, 401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa 33606. It is housed in the famous turreted structure, originally the Tampa Bay Hotel, built along the Hillsborough River by Mr. and Mrs. Plant in 1888-1891. Mr. Plant played a major part in the development of Florida with the railroad he built along the eastern seaboard. This grand building is now part of the University of Tampa. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors. We will meet at Nativity at 9:45am to carpool, with planned arrival at the museum by 11:15am. We will leave the museum at about 1:00pm to enjoy a Cuban lunch at The Flan Factory, about 9 minutes away, at 1718 N. Nebraska Avenue 33602. If anyone other than a member of Friendship Circle wishes to join us, please contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

SARAH CIRCLE, JANUARY 16 @ 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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - JANUARY 19, 2025. The agenda for this meeting will include the Annual Report, and our year-end financial reports from the Financial Secretary and Treasurer. We are asking congregational members to make the time to attend this important meeting which will occur after the 9:30AM service.

CLUB 75 LUNCHEON - JANUARY 28. The only criteria to be part of this fellowship group is that you must be 75 years old or older! More details coming. You can also call Vicki Page with any questions (352-210-8407). A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.

TRINKETS & TREASURES - We have set the date for the next Trinkets & Treasures sale. It will be Friday, April 4th and Saturday, April 5th. We will have a meeting on **Monday, January 20^h at 10am** in al Lien Hall and appreciate all who are willing to volunteer to come. We will start accepting items for donations only on Mondays from 9am - 12pm, and Tuesdays 1p - 4p, beginning February 10th from 9am-12pm. If you have any questions, you may contact Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119 or Janet Jones at 352-232-1074.

THANK YOU. Danny Diaz, Pr. Giuseppe, Donna Olsen, and Linda Rizzo, "Thank You" for your generous gifts and cards at Christmas time. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU: To all the Head Counters, Counters, and Data Entry people for their volunteer time and talent in 2024.

EXCITING NEWS from Darlene, Patrick and Madison Gould: Congratulations to Jared Dylan Gould, who graduated with his Masters Degree from Florida State University on Friday, December 13th, in Entrepreneurship. Jared is currently residing in Barnard, Vermont, employed by Twin Farms Estate Resort as Director of Hospitality. Please keep Jared in your prayers, as he continues to navigate his career and life path.

SAVE THE DATE!

FOUR CHAPLANS SERVICE, Sunday, February 2, 2025 @ 3:00PM. Nativity will host the Four Chaplans Service this year. Watch for more details about this service in the weekly announcements and e-blasts.

PATTER FROM PATTI

Fellowship

Can you believe we are in a new year already, guess we better have some activities, here they are:

MYSTERY DINNER, Tuesday, January 28th

We are going fairly local in Hernando, but we still have our appetizers in Winemiller at 4:00. Then you shall be sent to a great new restaurant we just found. If you wish to participate please leave per person \$10. Which will be returned to you at your attendance. Patti will start taking sign ins on Sunday January 12th;

50's NIGHT, Saturday, February 22nd

How many of you are as ancient as we are and remember the years of 1950 and 1960? We will celebrate those times so you can dress like the old stage if you can remember back that much or look it up. We will give you more info next month just save the date.

HAMARAMA TALENT SHOW, Saturday, March 15th

We have had these every other year for a long time. A full Ham Dinner followed by a talent show of our members. IF YOU HAVE A TALENT PLEASE LET ME KNOW, WE USUALLY HAVE 10 ACTS. More details later.

Enjoy the New Year and look forward to our future.

~Patti Cotter

RESULTS OF DECEMBER ELECTIONS

Elected to Congregation Council:

Steve Miller	three-year term
David Van Horn	three-year term
Carol Anderson	three-year term

Elected to the Nominating Committee:

Joanne Johnson	three-year term
Sandy Peeters	three-year term

Elected to the Mission Endowment Committee:

Ed Lewis	three-year term
Barb Crisanti	three-year term

Elected as 2025 Synod Assembly Delegates:

Joree Jensen and Ann and Juliet Wright

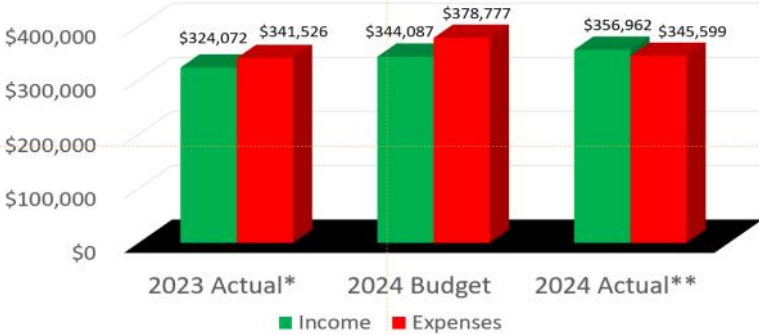
In addition, the 2025 Church Budget was approved.

At the December 16 Council meeting, the Council voted for the 2025 Officers of the Church. Those elected are:

Steve Miller	President
Linda Russo	Vice President
Scott Henkel	Financial Secretary
Evelyn Galli	Treasurer
Carol Anderson & Karen Crawford	Co-Secretary

**FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY
NOVEMBER 2024**

2024 Income and Expenses (Through November)



* 2023 income and expenses do not include \$52,051.60 in storm damages.

** 2024 income and expenses do not include \$17,379 in maintenance reserve for sanctuary project

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.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



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!

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.

NURSERY HELP NEEDED FOR SUNDAYS. If you have signed up and are registered for helping out in the nursery, we need 2 people to monitor the nursery. Sign-up sheet is available in the nursery or you may call the office at 352-597-1456 to schedule day(s) you are willing to help out.

MEMBER UPDATES:

Dearly departed: Diane Zabel

Condolence cards: Zabel Family
8019 Willow Brook Drive
Spring Hill, FL 34606

January Birthdays

Henry Wittschieben	1/1
Elaine Malone	1/2
Jennifer Johnson	1/6
Jena Kleiber	1/6
Stephanie Mattei	1/10
Emma Wozniak	1/10
Gina Fell	1/13
Lou Prettyman	1/16
JoAnne Berg	1/19
Vivian Deon	1/23
Philip Schroeder	1/24
Daisy Kunoo	1/31



January Wedding Anniversaries

Marylou & Robert Bonesteel	1/3
Joyce & Russ Colombo	1/28



happy new years

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 **February** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **January 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

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)