



# Happenings at NLC

## February 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

Family Fun Day -	2/9
Fellowship 50's Party -	2/22
Four Chaplains Service -	2/23
Weeki Wachee Winds Concert -	3/2
Ash Wednesday Service -	3/5
Lent Services -	3/12, 19, 26 4/2 & 9
Lent Suppers -	3/12, 19, 26 & 4/9
Hamarama -	3/15

Please visit our website at [www.nlcww.org](http://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](http://www.nlcww.org)

# SPIRITUAL LIFE

## Spiritual remembrances in February:

### **Presentation of Our Lord. Sunday, February 2, 2025**

- Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

### **Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865. Monday, February 3, 2025**

- A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

### **The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597. Wednesday, February 5, 2025**

- Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.

### **Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs. Friday, February 14, 2025**

- These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

**Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546. Tuesday, February 18, 2025** - Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

**Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156. Sunday, February 23, 2025** - Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

**Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921. Tuesday, February 25, 2025** - Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

**George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633. Saturday, March 1, 2025** - An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

## LENT SERVICES

Lent is a significant season in the Christian liturgical calendar, observed by many denominations, including Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans, and Methodists. It is a period of 40 days of fasting, prayer, and penance, beginning on Ash Wednesday and culminating on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday.

The 40-day period symbolizes the time Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness, enduring temptation by Satan. The themes of repentance, sacrifice, and renewal are central to this sacred time, encouraging believers to deepen their faith and seek spiritual growth.

Our Lenten series this year invites us to explore the theme of salvation through the five senses. Each week, we will focus on a different sense, reflecting on how touch, taste, smell, sight, and hearing can bring us closer to the divine.

Join us for a transformative journey this Lent. The **Ash Wednesday** service is celebrated on **March 5 at 5:00 PM**. Lent services will be March 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9 **from 5:45 PM to 6:15 PM**. Preceding the Lent services will be soup & sandwich starting at 5:00PM with the exception of April 2.

**ALTAR GUILD – February 24, 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.**

**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.

**NEW MEMBERS ADDED TO THE CHURCH  
JANUARY 12, 2025  
THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM  
LILY-ANN & RAYLYNN SANTIAGO**



**Four Chaplains Memorial Service  
82<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Commemoration**

Presented By  
The Hernando County Community | Four Chaplains Volunteer Committee

February 23rd, 2025 | At 3 PM,  
Nativity Lutheran Church  
6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee FL 34613

**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.

**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](http://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.



Lutheran

Disaster Response

# OUTREACH

## FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH - **LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE.**

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is the ELCA's ministry to provide short- and long-term recovery when disasters strike in the United States and around the world.

LDR shares God's hope, healing, and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

LDR strives to help the church continue to be church during disasters — following Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbor in need. Some key areas of work include:

Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster. Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates.

Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters. Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes.

When a gift is designated to a specific disaster, 100% of it goes toward helping survivors and communities. Like Lutheran Disaster Response on Facebook, follow @ELCALDR on Twitter and follow @ELCA\_LDR on Instagram. Donations can be put in the green envelopes in the pews, and mark it "LDR" and placed in the offering basket.



## NEW ELECTRONIC SIGN

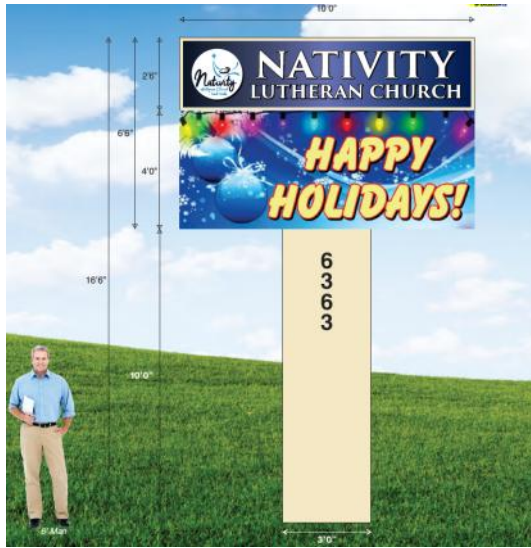
The time has come to replace our existing sign for our church with a new electronic sign.

A new sign would allow us to more effectively spread the message of God's love and the many things that Nativity is doing in response to that love. At the congregation meeting on January 19, the members voted to develop a fund to purchase a new electronic sign.

### Existing signs:



## New Sign:



We need your help to make this dream a reality. Thus far, we have raised about 28% of the funds needed for this project (our goal is \$65,000). Pledge forms for this initiative are available in the office or in the narthex. You may also use the green envelopes, and mark it “sign project”, to make a donation or can simply send an email to [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) with any amounts you can pledge to this initiative.

Please contact Ev Galli at 516-909-3119 or Scott Henkel at 612-868-9512 if you have any questions concerning this initiative.

# **FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS**

## **SHOPPING CART DONATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY IS:**

Cans of Beefaroni and strawberry jelly.

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

## **THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS ARE GOING TO BE OUR GUESTS HEAR THEIR STORY AND SEE THEIR BEAUTIFUL OLIVEWOOD CRAFTS**

**On March 30, 2025**, and during the service, we will be hearing about the Christians of the Holy Land, and after the service in the church Narthex we will be hosting a nice display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase. These carvings include olivewood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter and Christmas gifts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income.

For decades those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflict, the wars, the 12 yard wall built around Bethlehem, the COVID-19 pandemic, and nowadays the catastrophic ongoing war, due to this tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land. This made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland since they lost their source of income. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, today it is less than 1%. If it continues like this, in few years we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites.

Please help support our Christian brothers and sisters in the town of Bethlehem where Christ was born by purchasing their carvings.

A Christian family from Bethlehem will be telling us the story of the Christians of the Holy Land and they will be presenting these carvings after the services.

It is never too late to help. All proceeds go to support Christian families from Bethlehem .

**Let us carefully tend to our roots, Christian children of God in the Holy Land. And let us pray together for peace in the land where our Savior once walked to tell the world the good news of salvation .**

Thank you for your support

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. George Ghanem  
Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative  
703-745-2604

**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](http://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 - FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>.** All Women of Nativity are invited to join our bible study on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:45AM. For more information, please call Elva Posewitz at 352-584-9362.

**CARDS R US, FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>(?) and 10<sup>TH</sup>.** Card making days in February will be first and second Mondays, from 9:30am-12:30pm. Everyone is invited to join us in this satisfying and fun endeavor. Congregation, remember your Valentine and shop our kiosks. Proceeds are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help those in financial crisis. For further information, contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

**DAYS FOR GIRLS - our next meeting will be TUESDAY, February 4th and 18th 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, FEBRUARY 8.** Friendship Circle will see the movie GREEN AND GOLD on Saturday, February 8. GREEN AND GOLD is a family drama movie that tells the story of a Door County, WI, dairy farmer who bets it all on the Green Bay Packers winning the Super Bowl to save his farm from foreclosure. The theater and movie time, plus the restaurant, will be chosen once schedules are released, a few days prior. Circle members and any others who have indicated they wish to join us will be notified by email, phone, or text. If anyone other than a member of Friendship Circle wishes to join us, please contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

**FEBRUARY 9 - FAMILY FUN DAY.** Directly after church service. Souper Bowl Tailgate and Chili Cook-Off. \$5 per chili entry (\$100 Chili's gift card to the best chili). Bring a can of soup or other canned good for the food pantry.

For more information contact Ann Wright at eacw.78@gmail.com.

**SARAH CIRCLE, FEBRUARY 20 @ 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.

**CLUB 75 LUNCHEON - FEBRUARY 25.** 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 - Sale Dates Friday, April 4th and Saturday, April 5th.** We will start accepting items for donations only on Mondays from 9am - 12pm, and Tuesdays 1pm-4pm, **beginning Monday, February 10th.** Last day for donations will be Tuesday, March 18th. If you can help us sort and price items during any of those days/times, please join us. It's a great time for fellowship as we work and you might even find a bargain or two prior to the sale. If you have any questions, you may contact Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119 or Janet Jones at 352-515-3931.

**MEMBER UPDATES:**

**Dearly departed:** Robert Brayman

*Condolence cards:* Judie Brayman  
2268 Country Ridge Lane  
Spring Hill, FL 34606

**New Addresses:** Joanne Manos  
7372 East Whistling Wind Way  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Donna Olsen  
6247 W Glynborne Loop  
Crystal River, FL 34429

Clyde & Rosie Rosten  
1370 Celebration Blvd.  
Apt. 609  
Celebration, FL 34747



## PATTER FROM PATTI

I guess many of you know already that Tim and I will be retiring from Fellowship after the May event. We have totally enjoyed the 20 years we have offered, but it is time to let others proceed with activities. I am so grateful for our wonderful committee, even when I had medical issues they got things handled. So thankful to them. Any questions give me a call @ 352-797-9682. Carol Anderson will be handling this one so she can see what it is like.

**REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025, AT 5:00 PM.** Fellowship will take us back to the 50's on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 5:00 PM. Poodle skirts, saddle shoes, leather jackets and bobby socks.

We are serving sloppy joes, chips, corn on the cob and coleslaw. For dessert we are having Root Beer Floats. We will have some contests for Best Dressed 50's outfit, a Twist Contest and a Jitterbug Contest. For those who loved that era we will have a Trivia Contest. We will start selling tickets on February 2nd. The cost for all this fun will be \$5.00 a person. Hope to see all of you there, it's the best generation ever!

**HAMARAMA TALENT SHOW, SATURDAY, MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>, 5:00 PM.** We have been having our HAMARAMA TALENT SHOW every other year for a long time, Of course it is the usual dinner that we always offer, ham, potatoes, green beans, salad, ice cream sundaes. After, of course, it is the many talented acts that our members offer. If you have performed for us earlier, please do it again since this is the last one Tim and I will be offering. Of course we will each be doing an act too. I wasn't a drama major for nothing. Ha-Ha. The tickets will be \$10.00 and I will start selling them on Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I remember 2 events a long time ago, we sold so many tickets that we couldn't feed anymore so people paid just to see the show. Do join us, thanks.

### **APRIL WILL BE A MYSTERY DINNER.**

Tim wants us to head north so we could have you all at our house before the restaurant. Of course you could then have some different goodies to drink. This will all depend if we can find somewhere up north. If you know of any possibilities, let us know. So nothing planned yet.

Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup>, will be Memorial Cook Out after the service.

You will get more details later, but Tim and his guy buddies will be making the goodies during the service so you can smell it outside.

*~Patti Cotter*

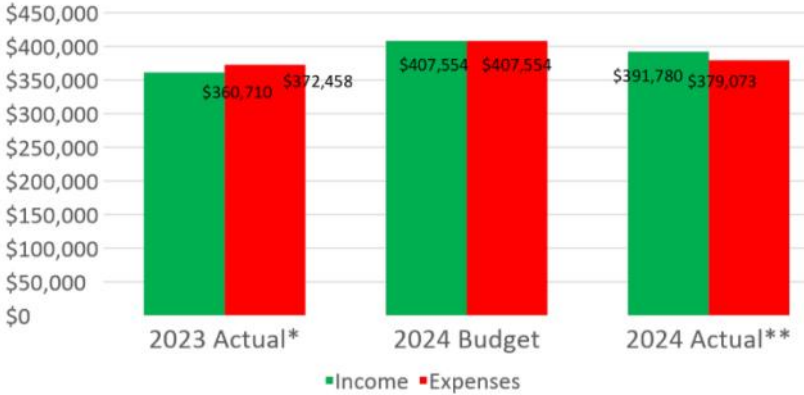


**THE WEEKI WACHEE WINDS - COMMUNITY CONCERT**  
**- SUNDAY, MARCH 2 AT 2PM.** Under the direction of NLC member Mark Hengesh, Weeki Wachee Winds will be presenting their **Winter Concert** at Nativity in the sanctuary. The concert is free. Donations will be gratefully accepted.



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

**2024 Income and Expenses (Year End)**



\* 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!

**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.

## February Birthdays

Iris Brunner	2/02
Eugene Burkart	2/05
Charles Wingrove	2/06
Roger Wendrzycki	2/07
Simone Mattei	2/09
Robert Rios	2/10
Beverly Houdek	2/15
Valerie Mahon	2/16
Zell Boggus	2/17
Galina Maras-Kesteloot	2/19
Kristin Hope	2/21
Patrick Gould	2/22
Carol Anderson	2/23
Debra LaFranca	2/23
Lynne Merritt	2/24
Jim Runyan	2/24
Robert Sanders	2/24
Dieter Steffens	2/24
Darlene Gould	2/26
Carol White	2/26
Lorraine Adams	2/27



## February Anniversaries

Daisy & John Kunoo	2/01
Donna & Gene Long	2/10
Steve Miller & Wayne Morris	2/16
Carol & Richard Fleschner	2/17
Linda & Brian Wagner	2/26



## 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 **March** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) by **February 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](http://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](mailto: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)