



January 2018

The

Quarterly Magazine
1st issue

Resolve to do Good Works !!!

Where do good works come from?

Some believe “good works” stem from our fear of death or being judged by God or others. While some say from obeying the 10 Commandments. Yet others by the desire to do good and for many a little of all of these.

James 2:14-17 reads “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So, also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

Luther taught that we cannot obtain eternal life by performing good works. Christ has already paid for our sins. Rather it is our

love and gratitude for our Lord that motivates us.

Every January we think about making New Year resolutions. They are usually about some personal flaw or failing and are so hard to keep. Well, what if we change it up this year.

What if we focus on doing something for someone else. “I tell you the truth, just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me.” (Matthew 25:40) There are so many in need, it can be overwhelming. How can I really make a difference? It’s hard to have an impact by ones-self. It helps to have the support and encouragement of others.

So how about joining one of the many ministries here at Nativity Lutheran Church. There isn’t a ministry that wouldn’t welcome help. Ask a friend or neighbor to join you.

Let your love and light shine!

Sunday Worship Services
8:30 & 11:00 AM

Children’s Sunday School &
Adult Forum
9:45 to 10:45 AM



Harry is a member and captain of the swim team. He will graduate from Weeki Wachee High School this year. Harry took the military service exam scoring in the top 10%, which will allow him the opportunity to choose the branch of service and his preferred field of nuclear engineering.

After graduation, Harry plans to explore a future with the US Navy.

You will often find Harry around church. He serves as an acolyte, a member of the bell choir and helps out with a multitude of other tasks. As Harry reflects on significant experiences with the Nativity youth group he relates that his work with Vacation Bible School and the youth trip to Detroit rank among the most memorable.

God led Harry to Nativity and the youth group through a two-week summer visit with his grandparents – which turned into a four-year living experience. He is the grandson

Harry Elliott



of Buddy Kristoferson and lives with Buddy and June throughout each school year.

“Our biggest need is a new leader,” is Harry’s response when questioned about the needs of the youth group. Harry feels that they need someone who can coordinate fundraising and schedule “plenty of meetings and events”. He thinks that doing things for the community is valuable and would like “meetings with expanded time for discussion”.

Harry is an excellent example of the wonderful young members of Nativity Lutheran Church. Take time to say

PASTOR'S PASSION

*If you love me,
you will keep my
commandments. And I will ask
the Father, and he will give you
another advocate to help you and
be with you forever—the Spirit of
truth. (John 14:15-17)*

The Spirit is the advocate by whose power we are enabled to keep the commandments, for keeping the commandments is not something we can do alone.

On our own and left to our own devices, motivated by fear of death, does not affirm our righteousness before God. We attempt to gain God’s favor with the hope of achieving peace of mind through our exhausting struggle to climb the religious ladder to conquer heaven. We can never be sure we’ve done enough to please God. We cannot do it on our own. We are frightened, perhaps terrified by our inability to fulfill the Law.

Keeping the commandments is an act of love. It is love acting in us through the power of the Spirit that moves us and redirects us toward God. It’s not about doing it right; it’s about being in a right relationship with God. It’s not about being correct; it’s about being connected.”

The fact is, we did not love God first, but God loved us first. In that love we are transformed. Keeping Jesus



Pastor Mattei



OUTREACH

Junktique

In 1998 a group of 12 interested disciples of Nativity Volunteers went to Haiti with former pastor Dr. William Roen. There they visited "Village of Hope" which was in the process of expanding with a new school building. It was the volunteers from NLC who helped mix cement, lay bricks, build tables, benches and painting. While there they met missionary Carol Herget, who was director of this outreach program.

Carol's student, Gasnel Anilus, wanted to start another school. In 2000 Carol asked Pastor Roen for help. Pastor Roen reached out to the members of NLC. Little did they know just how involved NLC would become. Their need to raise funds resulted in the first Junktique being held in November 2000, under the direction of Ernie and Lilo Horeis.

The first Junktique was held in one room and went over extremely



Beginning with prayer.

well. The money from the sale went to provide funding for the school and a Christmas Eve meal for the children and their parents in Haiti. The following year, Carol again asked Pastor Roen and NLC members for help to purchase a piece of land for the school. Once again, NLC came through with the second Junktique sale. A team from Nativity went to Haiti in 2002 to help build the first combination classroom-church. This facility helped give 134 children an education and hot meals.

From 2003 to the first half of 2009, the Junktique sale was held twice a year. It was an excellent outreach program and fund raiser. 50% of the money made went to Haiti and the other 50% went to local organizations.

In the second half of 2009, Digby and David Janus volunteered to take the lead for this event. Ernie and Lilo Horeis were chairpersons from 2011-2013. Beginning in 2014, through the most recent sale in October 2017, June and Buddy Kristoferson led the annual Junktique sale.

The funds from this event have provided support in Haiti which included building two schools-churches, a kitchen-dining room,



and served over one million hot meals to the children of both schools.

Nativity ministries have also received money from Junktique sale for special projects and the food pantry. Under the direction of Buddy and June and with over 50 volunteers, the October 2017 sale brought in \$9,938.33, half went to the food pantry and half to the NLC emergency fund. Unsold items were donated to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches and Habitat for Humanity.

This annual event has certainly been a blessing to many people. NLC would like to keep it going in 2018. Buddy and June have done a terrific job and we applaud them and all the previously leaders. However, they are stepping down as chairpersons. The hope is that one or more people will step up and take over this annual event. Buddy



Material included in The Communicator for Nativity is gathered from Committee Reports. If you would like material included in the publication, please submit your Committee Report to your group leader.





COMMUNITY

Friendship Circle

Susan Nordstrom is the chair for this very active ministry. Susan shared that the Concordance section of her study Bible notes that there are 564 verses in the Bible in which the word LOVE appears! These verses tell us that God admonished us to love one another. Proverbs 17:17 says, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity", meaning a brother (or sister) is born to help us in time of need. Jesus' life was our example for loving one another, loving everyone.

Friendship Circle strives to live up to its name. They befriend each other and are there for each other. They are welcoming, to husbands, children, grand kids, new members - to all. Sharing many experiences from fun, missions and personal tribulations. Friends are especially important to many of us who are transplants to Florida. Every get-together includes a business meeting, devotion and prayers.

Circle members report: "Everyone is friendly and open"; "My experience with Friendship Circle is very important to me as it completes the circle of

fellowship, spiritual needs and enrichment in my life"; and "I joined the circle of friends because all who are in this circle are kind and friendly and we all do things together that are fun". "Getting together means I have a lot of great sisters".

They share time together at good restaurants, movies, sightseeing, parks, museums and art. Here are some of their 2017 activities:

- Shopping trip to the Tampa IKEA with lunch at Ybor City Columbia Restaurant.
- Delivery of teddy bears to a Hernando County Firehouse, the Florida Highway Patrol, and the county Sheriff's Department.
- Visited Art in the Park at Tom Varn Park in Brooksville.
- Visited the Florida-Bahamas Women of the ELCA's love offering focus & Golden Rainbow Ranch.
- Lunch the Pithlachascotee River at The Crab Shack.
- Toured the Uptown Art Gallery in Brooksville featuring Florida local artists.
- Movie, entertainment and food trucks at Marker 48 Brewing.
- Carpooled to Tampa for The Art of the Brick Lego exhibition and dinner at Ulele on the Hillsborough River Walk.
- Potluck at Pine Island beach joined by several friendly dolphins. God's beautiful world!
- Pool party at The Bluffs clubhouse hosted by Vivian Deon.
- Christmas sit down potluck dinner and cookie exchange hosted by Libby and John Capell. In lieu of exchanging gifts, they donated cash to purchase ELCA Good Gifts (a piglet, farming tools/training, and sending a girl to school).

Friendship Circle sponsors the Cards R Us ministry, in which used, donated greeting cards are recycled and made into new greeting cards available to the congregation. In 2017, Cards R Us donated approximately \$800 in proceeds to Pastor's Discretionary Fund for assistance to those in need. If you are interested in making new friends and joining in the meaningful "good work" please contact Susan Nordstrom



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

DISCIPLESHIP

Wedding Preparation

“Get Me to the Church On Time”!

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Lent begins on
Ash Wednesday
Feb. 14th,
the same day as
Valentine's Day,
when we celebrate
our love for our
sisters and brothers
in **Christ!**
Check the Monthly
Newsletter for



Brides and grooms, the parents and for many, the grandparents of an engaged couple know how much work goes into making the perfect wedding day. God has blessed them in finding that special person who loves them, flaws and all. The road ahead will be full of:

- Difficulties
- Challenges
- Blessings

Difficulties cannot be planned or scheduled. They must be dealt with.

Challenges can be accepted or declined. Blessings are always welcomed but do

we handle them as we should?

Many couples balk at the 3-hour required minimum for premarital counseling. Compared to the hours of planning for the ceremony, this is but a blip on the chart. The gift of premarital counseling is that it gives a couple the chance to think about critical issues before they actually have to deal with them. It offers the chance to plan a path with God's help, for how they will deal with issues before they occur.

When blessings occur, it reminds them to give thanks. It offers the opportunity to discuss how they will serve God and how they can show their gratitude by giving of their time or talent. In other words, being God's agents to provide blessings for others. They discuss how to practice their faith daily, the importance of being a part of a faith community and sharing that faith with others and future children.

There are several ways to fulfill this required counseling, either by engaging Nativity Lutheran Church's Pastor Mattei or



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SPRITUAL LIFE



Acolytes & Crucifers



Jason Martin



Hailey Patterson

The word acolyte means "attendant" or "one who helps". Whether you light the candles, carry the cross, are a banner bearer, provide the offering plates to the ushers, offer juice to the communicants or are a book bearer - you are considered an acolyte. As an acolyte and crucifer, you are joining the ranks of those who have helped with the worship service since the early Christian church. Some say that acolytes have an even longer history - Samuel, who assisted Eli in the Old Testament Temple was really the first acolyte.

The acolyte and crucifer are an essential part of the Nativity Lutheran Church worship service. The crucifer carries the processional cross and leads the procession into and out of the church; acolytes are responsible for lighting and extinguishing the altar candles, receiving the offering, and performing other

duties as requested by the pastor.

The age at which a young person may serve as an acolyte or crucifer is determined by the pastor, following a discussion with the parent or guardian and child. Central to the discussion is the ability of the child to perform the necessary tasks, and the desire of the child to serve in this capacity. A short training session is required.

Many of the acolytes and crucifers are also members of the Confirmation Class. This service is a wonderful way for young people to be involved in the worship service and to give glory to God. It would be ideal if we were able to increase the membership of this team. Children interested in serving as an acolyte or crucifer should contact Ruth Ann Hoy at 727-403-8867.



4 AREAS OF MINISTRY

To accomplish our mission, we organize our ministry teams into four areas.

Spiritual Life

Jack Page
Ruth Ann Hoy

**Columbarium
& Pavers**
Mercy Ministry
Communion
& Visitation
Grief Support*
Prayer Chain
Stewardship
Worship & Music
Acolytes & Crucifers
Altar Guild
Assisting Ministers
Audio-Video
Bulletin Folders
Choir
Drama & Puppets*
Greeters
Nativity Ringers
Nursery
Pew Maintenance
Readers
Ushers

Outreach

June
Kristoferson

Backpack Ministry
Communication Team
Evangelism Team*
Food Pantry
Inter-Denominational
& Inter-Faith
Ecumenical Team*
Fund Raisers*
Membership Team
Mission & Outreach
Mission Endowment
Thrivent

Christian Education
-DISCIPLESHIP-
Janet Jones

Adult Forum
Archives
Baptism Preparation
Children's Sunday School
Confirmation Class
Library
New Members Class
VBS
Wedding Preparation

Community Life

Clyde Rosten

Book Club
Coffee Hour
Fellowship
Finance Committee
Audit Committee
Counters
Data Entry
Gardens
Golf
Hospitality
Lay Leadership
Men's Group
Memorial
Mutual Ministry
Parish Nurse*
Property & Safety
Women of Nativity
Cards R Us
Crafty Ladies
Days for Girls
Friendship Circle
Mary Joy Circle
Sarah Circle
Youth Ministry

***All Ministry and Council
meetings welcome anyone
who wishes to attend.***

** Under Consideration*



CHANGE ALERT!

THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM IS ANNOUNCING THAT **THE COMMUNICATOR** WILL BE CHANGING TO A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION. ALL OF THE TEAM MEMBERS HAVE WORKED DILIGENTLY TO BRING OUR CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY INSIGHT INTO ALL THE WORK OUR NLC MINISTRIES ACCOMPLISH. HOWEVER, THE TIME, PERSONNEL AND COST PROHIBITS US FROM CONTINUING MONTHLY. A BIG THANK YOU TO THE ADVERTISERS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE MADE THIS PUBLICATION POSSIBLE.

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Office Hours
Monday—Thursday
9AM—3PM
Friday
9AM—2PM



Historical Highlights

Do you recognize any of these folks who were present at the installation of the corner stone for the New Sanctuary on July 29, 2001?

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