



Happenings at NLC

February 2018

Monthly Newsletter

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

Worship Services 8:30am & 11am

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

You Are Invited!

Attention Nativians,

Join us for a Celebration of Ministries Open House on Saturday, February 24, 2018 between 4-6 PM. Enjoy appetizers, wine, and cheese in an informal setting as you visit the various ministry tables and learn about all that is happening at Nativity and what Nativity is doing in our community. Did you know that there are 62 active ministries at Nativity? WOW! Mark your calendars now.



The Stewardship Committee

Church Events

- February 14 – Ash Wednesday Service
- February 19 – Council Meeting
- February 21 – Lenten Service
- February 24 – Celebration of Ministries
- February 28 – Lenten Service

Please visit our website at www.nlcww.org to view the NLC calendar, submit requests for dates/events, download sermons, among other things.



CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT 2018

Good morning my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pastor Mattei, Deacons, Lay Leaders, Ministry Leaders, Committee Chairpersons, members of the Nativity Lutheran Church Council, members of the Nativity Lutheran Congregation.

It is with much gratitude and appreciation I humbly accepted the nomination and subsequent election by Council as president of this Congregational Council once more.

Last year at this time, I asked you to imagine Nativity Lutheran church as a ship on which we are all traveling. I also said that the boat was the mode of transport Jesus used to cross waters, and it was also the vessel fisherman used for their trade. That being the case, the result is that churches have been, and are still being built in the shape of an inverted boat.

Along with the wind currents, the method of propelling boats were oars, and you understood me clearly when I asked you all to put your oars in the water to propel Nativity Lutheran Church on its journey. My Brothers and Sisters, there is no doubt you heard me, and you pulled those oars with all your God given strength.

Your Council expresses sincere thanks to you for the support given to Nativity Lutheran Church last year.

I compiled a 'TO DO LIST' last year and after meeting with the Executive Committee and then Council, we accomplished much of what was on that list. This would not have been possible without the support of this congregation. This morning, on behalf of Council, I want to thank you for your wholehearted support in the forms of Time, Talent, and Kind.

All praise and thanks to God our Heavenly Father.

Here we are at the beginning of a new year and I have compiled another list once more which will be reviewed by Council tomorrow evening.

FYI...I must inform you that council meetings are open meetings and any member who wants to attend may do so and OBSERVE ONLY. You may not ask questions or give any input at the meetings. Hopefully it will give you an understanding of how your council works and inspire you to join council one day. Meetings are now held on the third MONDAY of the month @7:00pm.

In preparing for the journey this year, there has been a noticeable number of positions to be filled on several committees. These positions became vacant due to members relocating, done their allotted time, or gone to their eternal home. We thank them for their service.

The Stewardship Committee has planned an event showcasing the many committees and organizations on February 24th. in the evening. At that event all committees and organizations leaders will be present to give you information, outlook, and goals of their respective committee.

I invite you to attend the event, then prayerfully consider becoming affiliated with one of the many organizations and committees represented. You will be fulfilled knowing you are working for your Heavenly Father.

Our office is always in need of some additional assistance on a part time basis. If you have the capability and experience, or even willing to learn something new, you may offer to assist at your leisure by choosing the time and day you would like to volunteer.

I would like to give a brief insight into a few things to be done this year.

Property Committee: Many of the members formerly on this committee have relocated, resulting in a diminished group. If you are one of those “Do It Yourself” persons, if you have any experience in building and grounds maintenance and repair, whatever trade experience, financial experience or other relative expertise you possess, it would be a welcome asset to the Property Committee.

This committee surveys the property, check on all complaints and issues it receives, and then report their recommendations for the solution to Council.

online, sending Nativity across the nation, and around the world through the internet. Video screens with projectors are an option for viewing and presenting the service in the sanctuary.

The other option is the installation of TV screens on the pillars to be viewed during service. I'm sure you have seen these systems in your travels, more information will be forthcoming.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: For this church to continue the journey, plans must be in place because it has been said, and I quote *"IF YOU FAIL TO PLAN, YOU PLAN TO FAIL"*.

Lay leadership and the Stewardship committees will be asked to seek members of this congregation who, after hearing this, and others who you think have the experience in this field, and also those who want to volunteer, to reinstate the Long Range Planning Committee.

We have seen growth and development in the area, this means there will be new people relocating here and looking for a spiritual home.

Let's be prepared to welcome them in case they choose Nativity Lutheran with love, opened minds, and open hearts.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't thank my wife Gloria who has been my sounding board, editor, and consoler, after Jesus Christ of course, in the many years I have been involved in church administration,

On behalf of all Council members, those who have just completed their terms of office, and the new members, I want to thank YOU the members of this congregation, for your valuable contributions of Time, Talent, and Kind, given in thanks to God.

May God continue to bless us.

May God continue to bless Nativity Lutheran.

Thank you.

Al Wright

SPIRITUAL LIFE

HOLY COMMUNION — *All baptized are invited to receive the body and blood of our Lord, who is present with us in this sacrament. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and the bread and wine will be brought to you. We commune by intinction (dipping the wafer into the wine). If you prefer grape juice, indicate this to your communion server. Gluten free wafer available upon request. Non-communicating children and others are invited to come forward, crossing their arms across their chest, to receive a blessing.*

HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH — If you are aware of anyone in our congregation that is hospitalized, in need of home communion, or may need a pastoral call, please inform Darlene in the office at **352-597-1456**.

ASH WEDNESDAY — February 14, 2018

Please join us at 7pm for Ash Wednesday services as we mark the beginning of Lent.



WEDNESDAY SERVICES DURING LENT

On February 21 and 28, Lenten services will be held at 5:45pm. Prior to the service, please join us for “Soup & Sandwiches” in Winemiller Hall from 5-5:30pm.

ALTAR GULD – February 21, 2018 – 10am

You are cordially invited to join the Altar Guild. We invite anyone (male or female) to attend one of our meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:00am (to find out what we do and how we do it), or if you have any questions you would like answered before that please call **Janet DeVico at 352-597-0150**.

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES – Saturday, February 24, 2018

In cooperation with the Evangelism team, the Stewardship committee is working to let you know about the various opportunities to serve both Nativity and the Nativity community. As part of this effort, we are hosting a “Celebration of Ministries” on Saturday, February 24 from 4:00-6:00pm. This “Celebration” is an informal social event and will provide fellowship, light food and an opportunity to learn more about the various ministry and service opportunities at Nativity. We look forward to seeing you on February 24!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY - “JESUS’ JOURNEY TO THE CROSS: THE PASSION STORY ACCORDING TO LUKE” January 29 – March 26, 2018 – 7-8:30pm

Rev. Dr. Carlan Helgeson will be leading an 8-week Bible study on Jesus’ Passion in the Gospel of Luke on Mondays from 7:00-8:30pm. beginning January 29th. We will meet in Winemiller Hall.



If you would like to join the study, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or email Carlan at cdhelgeson@gmail.com by January 24th. The Bible is the only text and no previous Bible study experience is needed. Come, grow in your faith and friendship with others in the congregation!

CONFIRMATION CLASS — Will meet on Sunday, February 4 and February 18 at 9:45am in the library.

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL — Sunday mornings from **9:45-10:45am**. Classes for children **3 and up!**

COMMUNITY LIFE

CARDS R US – February 7 and 14, 2018 - 12:30-3:00pm

We will be making cards in Winemiller Hall. We enjoy talking as we're making cards (yes, we can multitask). We can always use more help and more cards, so please join us. We'll show you how and provide all supplies. One hundred percent of the profit from donations for the finished cards are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

MARY JOY CIRCLE – February 8, 2018 – 12:30pm

Mary Joy Circle will meet on Thursday, February 8th at 12:30pm at the church. Georgeanne Scheidter and Janet Jones will be the hostesses. Janet Jones will also be the facilitator. Bible Study is from the Gather Magazine - "Multiple Meanings". Learning from other interpretations - Session Two: Prepare the way of the Lord.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE – February 3, 2018 – afternoon

Friendship Circle members have been very enthusiastic about their desire to see the movie, "The Post", about the *Washington Post's* reporting of a massive government cover-up which spanned 3 decades and 4 U.S. Presidents. Steven Spielberg directs Meryl Streep, playing Katharine Graham, the first female publisher of a major US. newspaper, and her editor, Ben Bradlee, played by Tom Hanks. We will see the movie on Saturday, February 3, followed by devotions, a meeting and meal at Cheddars. The time we meet will depend on movie times that week. For anyone other than Friendship Circle members who is interested in joining us, please call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

CRAFTY LADIES - Fridays, 9:00-11:00am

We meet at church in Al Lien Hall. Join us for coffee at 10:30 am. All women are welcome. Call Lilo Horeis 352-666-7584 with any questions.

DAYS FOR GIRLS — February 15, 2018 — 9:00-11am

Health. Education. Dignity. Ensuring she has what she needs to succeed. These are the words found on the home page of the website for Days for Girls, a non-profit organization formed to help girls in developing countries stay in school. How can an organization help girls stay in school you may ask? Consider this: When a girl has her monthly period, she stays in her room and sits on a piece of cardboard! She cannot go to school and falls behind in her studies, eventually dropping out altogether.

Days for Girls has come up with a solution: washable, reusable menstrual pads which are kept in a drawstring bag. Along with receiving these kits the girls are taught about health and personal hygiene. They are taught how to care for their pads so that they will last up to 3 years.

Through the Trompeter Fund and Thrivent Financial, Women of Nativity have been able to participate in this mission.

Please consider joining us on this valuable mission project. Contact Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367 for more information or if you have any questions.

SARAH CIRCLE - Monday, February 19, 2018 — 6:00pm

All knitters & crocheters **WELCOME!** Anyone interested in learning? We will teach you the basics and provide the materials! We knit or crochet prayer shawls in all shapes and sizes that are given to those hospitalized, grieving, or otherwise in need of prayer. Questions? Call Kim Mehan at 727-207-0071.

MEN'S BREAKFAST—Tuesday, February 20, 2018 – 8:30am

Join us at Perkins Restaurant, 4685 Commercial Way, Spring Hill, for fellowship and breakfast. For more information on this group, please call Jim Christensen at 352-683-9141.

**FIRST LENTEN SOUP & SANDWICH — Wednesday,
February 21, 2018 — 5:00pm**

Per tradition Fellowship will host the first Soup and Sandwich supper. Dinner starts at 5:00. If you can help us with food please sign up on the kiosk for either a pot of soup or 12 sandwiches cut in half. We need your help in this. Thanks.

**CHINSEGUT HILL MANOR MUSEUM TOUR & LUNCH –
Thursday, February 22, 2018 – 11:30am**

We will be attending a lunch and tour of Hernando County's own Chinsegut Hill Manor Museum. If you want to learn more about this facility go to www.chinseguthillretreat.com.

The tour will be from the porch and for those who want to continue then on to the museum. The cost of the afternoon is \$15.00 We will start selling tickets on Sunday January 28th. Please make checks payable to Nativity Fellowship. At the time of ticket sale, please let us know if you will need a ride. It is off 41 in Brooksville. We will have maps for those driving. It is about 1/2 hour from church. There are only 60 tickets available, so don't procrastinate.

It looks to be a good start for the year. If you have any other questions, please give Patti Cotter a call at 352-797-9682.

FELLOWSHIP — April (date to be determined)

April will be a Mystery Dinner, watch for further details.

If any of you have a suggestion for a restaurant for a mystery dinner, please let Patti Cotter know. You can reach her at 352-797-9682.

COUNTERS NEEDED — We are looking for anyone who is good with numbers and is willing to volunteer their services once a month as Head Counter. You will be responsible for a group who volunteers and prove the donations received from the Congregation. Training will be provided. Job takes about 1.5-2 hours to complete. For more information, please call Ernie Horeis at 352-666-7584.

OUTREACH

THRIVENT



To all Circles and Committees:

You may not be aware of how Thrivent Action Team Projects may help you fund any project you may be scheduling throughout the year. You can receive \$250.00 seed money (credit card) for each project that is approved. Here are some examples:

- Youth Group – A community service project that you can purchase material for such as painting, cleaning the yard. Food for volunteers. Bake sale and Easter breakfast to fund ELCA Youth Convention in Texas 2018.
- Mission Outreach – Educational seminar material, food for a luncheon, Dade City shoes, clothing for people on the streets, VBS, food for backpacks, cookies for our troops.
- Circles – Material for items to make quilts, Days for Girls, purchase sewing machine, Cards R Us for making cards.
- Choirs – Bulletin for music concerts, food for after the concert, new bells/music.
- Food Pantry – Purchase food for pets, Easter meal, Thanksgiving meal (bag full).
- Council Members – Educational booklets; luncheon for new members, etc.

For more information or questions, please contact Ernie Horeis at 666-7584 or Tim Cotter at 797-9682.

BOX TOPS

The Women of Nativity Women have been collecting box tops for several years. We want to encourage everyone to save these box tops. They are given to Homosassa Elementary School where Donna Olsen teaches music. Boxes are provided in the narthex for your collection.

COMMUNICATION TEAM—February 9, 2018—10:00 AM

We are looking for people who would like to work with us on the website, advertising and public relations as well as editors for *The Communicator*. No experience necessary. Join us at our next meeting and see what our team is all about.

MISCELLANEOUS

LUTHERS' LEGACY IN GERMANY'S CULTURE —

Thursday, February 8, 2018 – 7:00pm

By Dr. Stephen K. Schindler, Chair, *USF Department of World Languages*, USF C.W. Young Hall Room 206. USF is located at: 4202 East Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL 33620

BOLD WOMEN'S DAY – February 25, 2018



Bold Women's Day is observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February and celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. It is important to realize that women are bold in different ways. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. How are you celebrating Bold Women's Day? Visit www.welca.org/bwd and download the "Celebrate Bold Women's Day" resource.

Bulletin Folders Needed—We are looking for people to help with folding the bulletins . If interested, please come by on a Friday morning at 8:00am. We meet in the library.

LIFE LINE SCREENING — February 24, 2018

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on February 24. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

There are three ways to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle.

REMINDERS

If you have something that you want included in the March newsletter, please make sure you submit it to Darlene by **February 15**. Thank you.

Keep in mind that if want to check the NLC calendar, it is available on the website, www.nlcww.org. In addition, on the website you can submit a request to schedule a meeting.

The next issue of *The Communicator* will come out on April 1. We would like to thank the advertisers who have supported us in the past. We are looking for advertisers for the next issue and would appreciate your help in finding some. Next time you're out shopping, going to dentist, getting hair/nails done, grabbing a bit to eat, perhaps you can ask if they would be interested in supporting NLC. Contact Evelyn Galli at 352-684-2261 or Lyn Derenski at 352-587-3624 for more information.

THANK YOU

We received the following note from Pastor Wee's family:



A warm thank you for the beautiful memorial service and luncheon. We are so touched by the warmth and generosity you have shown our parents and us. Should you need to reach any of us, please contact us at neebjork@gmail.com or (651) 260-8464, 1333 Strawberry Hill Rd., Afton, MN 55001

With much love,

Marit, Astri, Tryg & Britta



To my Nativity family,

Heartfelt thanks for your prayers, encouraging words and cards. We are so blessed to have so many friends. I know we will have a long road ahead, but all is possible with our Dear Lord. Please keep on praying. God bless you all.

Love,

Lilo & Ernie



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

November 3, 2017

Nativity Lutheran Church
Attn: Judith Dietz, Coordinator
6363 Commercial Way
Weeki Wachee, FL 34613

Dear Women of Nativity:

I want to personally thank you for bringing the "two big bags of stuffed animals" to our main office today.

Your donation to the Hernando County Sheriff's Office is greatly appreciated. The stuffed animals will be distributed to our patrol deputies and public service technicians, where they will be given to children in a stressful or scary situation. What a great comfort they will be for these children! A Facebook posting was done so the community would be aware of your generosity and support.

I am deeply humbled by your generosity. Thank you for your support of law enforcement.

Sincerely,

Al Nienhuis
Sheriff

AN/jdp



Letter from Sheriff's Office for delivery of teddy bears.

Words of Thankfulness

On behalf of Pastor Kris Wee's family, I extend heartfelt thanks to all of the persons who helped make the memorial service such a lovely event. I am sure the music and words shared by the family and others have found a special place within your heart.

My personal thanks is offered to all of the workers who helped with the luncheon. The food and monetary donations and labor were wonderful acts of love. Coming together as a church family to support each other means more than words can convey.

God Bless,

Janet Jones, Hospitality

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 10th – Save the Date!

Nativity ladies will be hosting the Gulf Coast Conference ladies at their spring meeting. Please plan to join us. Lunch will be served. Sister Michael Collins, Director of Communications and Discipleship for the Florida-Bahamas Synod, will be the speaker. She will also be speaking at the Sunday morning services on March 11.

SAVE THE DATE - You're in for a treat!!!

Saturday, March 17th – 5pm St. Patrick's Day Party!



Come join us on our version of the Emerald Isle. We tested recipes and here is what we have come up with: Irish Beef Stew, Irish Braised Cabbage, Irish Soda bread, Irish ice cream sundaes. So we are sure you will enjoy our Irish offerings. After dinner we will join for some Irish entertainment and games, still in the works. The cost will be \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for kids. Tickets will be available on February 18th. If you have any other questions, please call Patti Cotter at 352-797-9682.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

BLOOD NEEDED — There is an urgent need for ALL BLOOD TYPES for the hospitals and patients in our community!! At this time there is less than a three (3) day supply of blood!! LifeSouth Community Blood Centers is calling for all FLORIDA DONORS to donate TODAY! Please call [\(888\)-795-2707](tel:888-795-2707) to find your nearest location! Save a life, DONATE!

Marion Janzen, mother of Diane Mau, is turning **100 years young on February 6**. If you would like to send Marion a card her address is: 20 Alderberry Ct., Dallas, GA 30132

January & February Birthdays

Elaine Malone	1/2
Viola Broda	1/4
Nancy Crowe	1/5
Kathleen O'Brien	1/5
Jennifer Johnson	1/6
Dantae Johnson	1/7
Robert McDowall	1/7
Stephanie Mattei	1/10
Emma Wozniak	1/10
Pam Rogers	1/13
Rebecca Hanneman	1/15
Michelle Mehan-Conklin	1/15
Robyn Rahn	1/15
Beth Sannuto	1/17
Theresa Halgren	1/18
Margret Steffens	1/18
James Ward	1/18
JoAnne Berg	1/19
Louise Weyen	1/21
Vivian Deon	1/23
Pauline Dougan	1/23
Philip Schroeder	1/24
Joshua Breida	1/25
Cynthia Rogers	1/26
Sara Smith	1/27
Ruth Goodwin	1/29
Don Eckert	1/30



Iris Brunner	2/2
Dorothy Newell	2/6
Charles WIngrove	2/6
Roger Wendrzycki	2/7
Simone Mattei	2/9
Margret Ahlquist	2/11
Gerald Flom	2/15
Beverly Houdek	2/15
Joseph Rogers	2/15
Arthur Diedrich	2/16
Zell Boggus	2/17
Bette Kosatko	2/17
Doreen Davis	2/19
Galina Maras-Kesteloot	2/19
Patrick Gould	2/22
Georgeann Scheidter	2/22
Lynne Merritt	2/24
James Runyan	2/24
Dieter Steffens	2/24
Alyssa Oliver	2/25
Darlene Gould	2/26
Carol White	2/26
Susan Degg II	2/27
Lorraine Meyer	2/27
Matthew Breida	2/28
Lilo Horeis	2/28

January & February Anniversaries

Joyce & Conrad Colombo	1/28
Susan & Don Eckert	1/28
Lorrie & Frank DeFrancesco	2/11
Harriette & Edwin Cochran	2/14
Delores & Lamar Semmel	2/15
Phyllis & Ted Simpson	2/16
Carol & Richard Fleschner	2/17
Linda & Brian Wagner	2/26

