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What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come **together**, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

1 Corinthians 14:26

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The Back Pew - Jeff Larson
Well.. so much for the golden years.
and so at age 75, Abraham receives word from "the boss" that retirement will be delayed.
Genesis 12:1-4

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS— DID YOU KNOW?

In 1985, Pastor Winemiller was called here as a mission church developer. He spent the next 12 months conducting a door to door survey. In one 3-month period, he knocked on 400 doors. The territory covered was north from River Country to the Heather, east to Brookridge, south on Mariner to Northcliffe and west to US 19. Approximately 325 people stated they were interested in a new church. Pastor Winemiller wore out 4 pairs of shoes. So, you could say Nativity Lutheran Church was founded on ~~sole~~ soul!



September 2017

The Communicator

Monthly Magazine

Welcome to the first issue of "The Communicator"

- the monthly magazine for Nativity Lutheran Church (NLC).

Discover how the "circle of information" is completed at Nativity as our committees, groups and teams, share experiences and information via committee purpose outlines and meeting reports.

Be inspired by stories of how Nativity groups do God's work in our community.

Increase your understanding of the many opportunities that are available at NLC for mission and fellowship.

Join us in sharing the activities and experiences of your team/committee/group and provide information for inclusion in "The Communicator" by submitting your meeting notes to your Ministry Area Leader.

Promote Nativity Lutheran Church in the community by sharing this publication with family and friends. This publication is part of an amazing and comprehensive

program to improve our communication and awareness regarding Nativity activities.

The communication team has developed this magazine to recognize our ministries' efforts as part of our integrated and total communication program. This program combines consistent branding of our mission across all platforms: website, social media, email, magazine, personal electronic, phone and print contact, online calendar access and scheduling, radio programming, in-house TV for information and announcements, and eventual audio and video presentations to enhance the worship experience.

There will be 200 copies of "The Communicator" distributed after Sunday services on the last Sunday of the month. The limited quantity is due to the cost of printing. Please patronize our advertisers as their support significantly offsets our costs.

Look to the Future

9/10/17

Rally Day

10/1/17

World Communion Day

10/4/17

Blessing of Pets

10/19/17

Junktique

Congregation Pre-Sale

10/ 20 - 21 /17

Junktique - Public Sale

10/28/17

Reformation Festival

10/29/17

Reformation Sunday

The Pastor's Passion



God is in all situations

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."
(Romans 8:28)

God wisely makes the problem itself part of the solution. Once we can accept that God is in all situations, and that God can and will use even bad situations for good, then everything and everywhere becomes an occasion for good and an encounter with God.

When the Pharisees attempted to trick Jesus and asked him what he believed was the greatest commandment, Jesus used this difficult, even dangerous trap to teach us a great lesson. The answer he gave was "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all

including pizza & game nights, and youth Sunday school classes. He feels that this would help teens stay more focused on God.

Jayson believes that God is always there when he needs Him. He relates that God helps him when in trouble or pain. God always fixes problems! Jayson desires to learn more about God and become a more faithful follower of Jesus.

Please express your appreciation and love to Jayson and all of our young people!



Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

your soul and with all your mind" and "Love your neighbors as yourself".
(Matthew 22:37-39)

Jesus didn't use the negative "what we **shouldn't** do but the positive "what we **should** do". When we find ourselves judging others, Jesus instructs us to ask ourselves how would I want others to judge me.



Jayson
Martin

Nativity is blessed to have a wonderful group of young people active in our church. Each month we will feature an individual or group of young people so we can better get to know and support them.

We work at making each individual child and youth feel loved and appreciated as God's representatives to Nativity and the community.

Jayson Martin is one of our outstanding teens.

Jason is always willing to help – especially at Nativity! He is there to serve as an acolyte, crucifer, and usher, working at various fundraising events, Junktique or helping with VBS.

Completing three years of hard work to finish Lutheran Confirmation class has been a great accomplishment for Jayson. He juggled school responsibilities, changes in scheduling, teachers and pastors to achieve this goal.

How can we make things better for teens at Nativity? Jayson suggests that we have more events for teenagers –

Outreach

THRIVENT A PARTNER IN OUR MISSION

Thrivent is a not-for-profit financial services company whose member organization is Christian.



Ernie & Eastside Principle

The company offers a program to its members called "Thrivent Action Teams" (TAT). All Thrivent members are eligible to sponsor a Thrivent Action Team. The number of teams each member can apply for per year depends on their membership type. Benefit members are eligible to sponsor two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year, and associate members are eligible to sponsor one per calendar year (maximum of three). The TAT program includes a grant of \$250 to fund a project needed by our church or community.

Nativity members have sponsored over 70 TAT projects since the program began in 2014.

The following are just a few of the projects that have benefited from the TAT program:

Vacation Bible School - Water slide and weaving crafts

Golden Rainbow Ranch – Microscope and Animal Food Crafts
Girl Scouts – Cookies for the Military

Boy Scouts – Food Pantry

Crafty Ladies – Material for Quilts for World Relief

Homosassa Elementary – Shoes
Eastside Elementary – Thanksgiving Baskets

People Helping People – Food, Tents, Blankets, Bicycle Locks and Bus Passes

And so many more!

The TAT program helps by providing all or a portion of the funds needed to meet the wide array of needs that helps us fulfill our mission at Nativity. Tim Cotter and Ernie Horeis perform the valuable service of providing our interface to Thrivent. Tim also volunteers his time and experience by preparing TAT applications for Nativity members requiring assistance or who don't use a computer.

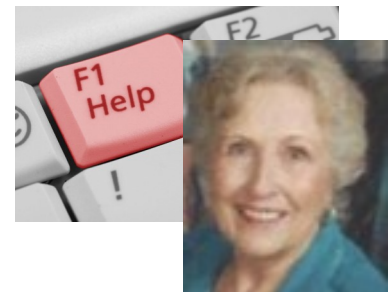
Ernie said that his life was changed after a mission trip to Haiti. Upon his return, he became a member of Thrivent because of the funds they made available for local and international ministries. Ernie and Tim's greatest challenge is to get

more Thrivent members involved in sponsoring projects. They have the additional goal of obtaining an on-site computer to offer training and make application for projects needing sponsors. They are hoping to inform the congregation of these projects and their successes via vehicles like this monthly magazine. So, if you would like to make a

VBS 2017



difference and become a TAT sponsor or would like more information, please contact Tim Cotter at 352-797-9682 or email cotter1944@gmail.com.



June Kristoferson

OUTREACH

Ministry Area Leader

june.kristoferson@nlcww.org



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

Community Life

COFFEE HOUR

.....Yum, Yum, Good!

There is nothing more warming than the aroma of “goodies and fresh coffee”, not to mention smiling faces. Warmth and smiles are just what our members and visitors experience.



Coffee Hour after each of our services fills not only a physical yearning but also a spiritual one. This is also true of the coordinator Diane Alt. A couple years ago, Diane was having a health issue, limiting her activities at church.

When she heard there was a need for an organizer for Coffee Hour, that need met her desire to serve. She set out to compile a list of bakers and their Email addresses.

This is a great venue for keeping your spouse’s happy, by preparing their favorite dessert on Saturday, but instead of worrying that they’ll eat the whole thing (those tempting calories) bring the extra to delight our members and visitors.

Diane said she has a great team but is always looking for new contributors, especially during the summer months. She also suggests inviting a visitor or a member you’d like to get to know better to the Coffee Hour.

One of Diane’s toughest tasks is to prevent overlap with special events. There is nothing more disheartening than to prepare a treat for Coffee Hour while



Art Alt highly recommends the Cinnamon Coffee Cake!!!

everyone else is attending a special event with a cake. Diane would love to receive a call at 352-596-1585 or an email to Diane@gobeach.us giving her a “heads up” so the Coffee Hour schedule can be adjusted.

If just thinking about dessert has your tummy growling, go get that recipe card and call Diane to set a date to bring your famous treat. If baking isn’t your thing, next Sunday invite your pew mate to join you for a meet and sweet.



Clyde Rosten
COMMUNITY LIFE
Ministry Area Leader
clyde.rosten@nlcww.org



Left to right:

Diana Alt—
Chairperson

Sally Peeters

Janet Jones

Georgeann Scheidter

4 MINISTRY GROUPS

Spiritual Life

Jack Page

Ruth Ann Hoy

Columbarium & Pavers

Discipleship Formation

Mercy Ministry

Grief Support

Home Communion

Hospital/Rehab/

Hospice

Post-Hospital

Prayer Chain

Stewardship

Worship & Music

Acolytes & Crucifers

Altar Guild

Assisting Ministers

Audio-Video Ministry

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

Junktique

Long Range Planning &

Development

Membership Team

Mission & Outreach

Mission Endowment

Thrivent

Christian Education

Janet Jones

Adult Forum

Archives

Baptism Preparation

Bible Study

Children's Sunday School

Library

New Members Class

VBS

Wedding preparation

Community Life

Clyde Rosten

500th Anniversary

Reformation

Fellowship

Finance Committee

Audit Committee

Counters

Data Entry

Memorial

Financial Team

Hospitality

Coffee Hour

Special Group Events

Lay Leadership

Mutual Ministry

Parish Nurse

Property & Safety

Gardens

Small Group Ministry

Book Club

Cards R Us

Crafty Ladies

Friendship Circle

Golf

Mary Joy Circle

Men's Group

Sarah Circle

Women of Nativity

Youth Ministry

Confirmation Class

Luther League

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

Spiritual Life

"WORTH CARING FOR?"

Stewardship is one of the most disliked, even feared words in most congregations. But what is the definition of stewardship?

It is "the **responsible overseeing and protection** of something considered **worth caring for and preserving**". So, the question is why do we believe the church is "**worth caring for**"? Jesus called us to gather together, to support one another through acts, prayer, worship, and to study his word so we might grow our faith; to be a church community.

Stewardship is demonstrating our appreciation of what God has given us. Sometimes it is hard to remember that everything we have belongs to God. This committee works to identify ministries that need assistance and encourages

members to share their time, talent and treasures. Fellowship, Youth and Evangelism are some of the ministries the Stewardship committee is looking to partner with.

Bob Schneider has accepted the call by becoming a member of the dreaded Stewardship committee! Bob believes he can use his God given skills of organization, teaching and presentation to help our congregation understand and commit to supporting our church.

Bob has delivered what he calls "Stewardship Moments" (temple talks) with information and common sense wrapped in humor. If you missed these moments, just ask Bob. His enthusiasm is contagious and you might find out it's not all about money!

"I love this church. I'd do practically anything - except join, tithe, work and such"



Bob shared his belief that Stewardship and Evangelism are two of the most important ministries of the church. These two ministries are interdependent. Good stewardship demonstrates belief and commitment and is an evangelizing message to bring Jesus Christ to the greater community.

If you think you might be interested in serving this ministry please talk with Bob or contact Chairperson Jo Anne Boggus at (352) 382-2176.

Jack Page

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Ministry Area Leader

jack.page@nlcww.org

Ruth Ann Hoy

SPIRITUAL LIFE

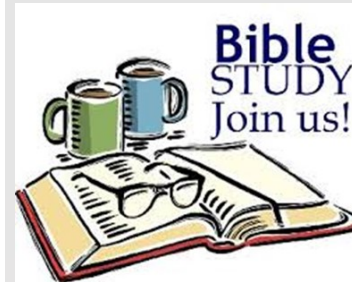
Ministry Area Leader

ruthann.hoy@nlcww.org

Christian Education

ADULT FORUM

Did you know that Nativity Lutheran Church offers ongoing Christian Education for adults?



The Adult Forum falls under our Christian Education Ministry. This dynamic team has worked hard to prepare and present informative and enlightening sessions. This year has focused on the 500th anniversary observance of the Lutheran Reformation.

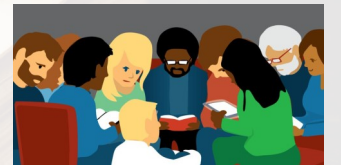
In January, Kim and Michele Mehan-Conklin presented a series

on church history. A "Music and Harmony" series was facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Carlan Helgeson. Jack Page guided attendees through "Using Luther's Theology to Become a Courageous Christian". Additional facilitators are Pastor Mattei, Rev. Phil Schroder, Deacon Clyde Rosten and guest speakers.

"Like many Christians before and since, Luther relied on the traditions of other Christians, naively trusting that the works of those men were probably based on sola Scriptura. It was a big mistake and would result in many generations of Christians being led astray" quoting from The Swordbearer.org. Luther's life's work was study. That is the best way to know his philosophy on continued study of the bible. Now we don't have to learn Arabic,

Greek and Latin, as Luther did. Those languages have been translated for us so we might read and understand God's message to us.

As you can see, these classes are taught by a variety of well-informed instructors. So, make a point to join your fellow members between Sunday services from 9:45 am to 10:45 am for an opportunity to explore a variety of topics with interactive learning and discussions. Questions are always welcomed!



Janet Jones

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Ministry Area Leader

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