



# Happenings at NLC

April 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



## Upcoming Events

April 13 — Teddy Bear Delivery

April 23 — Mystery Dinner

Please visit our website  
at [www.nlcww.org](http://www.nlcww.org) to  
view the NLC calendar,  
submit requests for  
dates or events, down-  
load sermons, among  
other things.



## *COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S LETTER*



The cold weather is gone, azaleas have displayed their colors and if you are from a northern state, you can identify the Forsythia pictured above. The days are slowly lengthening and there will be many more hours of sunshine to be enjoyed. Properties are being cleaned up with the removal of dried branches which succumbed to the extreme cold weather, and we await the new growth of Spring.

Nativity has also seen new growth as we recently welcomed new members to our congregation. Let's reach out and embrace them with the peace and love of God.

Congrats to the Stewardship committee and Ministry Area Leaders for a very impressive and informative "Celebration of Ministries Open House". The report from the Committee is that there have been many members who signed up for assisting in some of the ministries. It's now time to make that commitment to the Ministry which appeals to you as it will be to the glory of God.

You have been kept informed by the many means of communications here at Nativity, now it's the time for us to hear your concerns. With that in mind Council has approved of the placement of a "Suggestion Box" in the Narthex. All we ask is that you keep the suggestion to the point and whatever is within the Policy and Procedure Guidelines and the ELCA policy will be addressed.

Your council is hard at work and have achieved many of the goals set for this year, with your prayers and support we are hoping to go beyond these.

*Al Wright*

# SPIRITUAL LIFE

**HOLY BAPTISM** for three children is scheduled for the **11:00** o'clock service on **April 8**. The children to be baptized are Aiden Bilodeau, Rowan Bilodeau and Senora Herrera. At the same service, a group of children are receiving **HOLY COMMUNION** for the first time: Senora Herrera, Robert and Jasmine Oliver and Cameron Valenca.

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM** at the **11:00** o'clock service on **April 15**. Come and rejoice with us as one of our own, Sylvia Scebba, will affirm her Baptismal Vows. She grew up in the Lutheran Church of Canada and lives now in Weeki Wachee. Sylvia is married to Angelo Scebba.

## **ALTAR GULD – April 18, 2018 – 10:00AM**

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**.

**EASTER LILIES** — If you ordered a lily for Easter services, you may pick yours up following the 11:00AM service on Easter Sunday. Remaining lilies will be placed in the courtyard for adoption beginning Monday, April 2.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

**CONFIRMATION CLASS – April 8 & 22, 2018 – 9:45AM-10:45AM**

Confirmation students are studying the Hebrew Scriptures this year. They will explore what the Bible is, its purpose, its divine inspiration, structure, content and life application. This is one of the three year cycle of the Confirmation curriculum. Students can join the class at any time.

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

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) - Week of June 18-22, 2018 - 9:00AM-12:15PM (Monday through Friday) And Sunday June 24th at 11:00 will be VBS service.**

The theme for this VBS is Sunrise National Park VBS. (The publisher is Gospel Light). The phrase for this VBS is "Pointing Kids to Jesus."



All children aged 3 (potty trained, please) through 6th grade are welcome to attend as campers. Teens who have completed 6th grade and above are welcome to help as Junior Rangers. Adults are needed for daily Camp Rangers and also for decorating and planning.

Please support this opportunity to show the children of our community the love of Jesus. Ways you can help: keep this event in your prayers, spread the word, invite families with children to attend, share on Facebook/Twitter, monetary donations. We will have a meeting soon and we hope you can help out.

# COMMUNITY LIFE

**WOMEN OF NATIVITY (WON) - Board Meeting —  
Wednesday, April 4, 2018 — 5PM.** We will meet in the library.

## FELLOWSHIP

**MYSTERY DINNER – Monday, April 23, 2018 — 4:00PM  
at Cotter's**

Our final event for the season is our Mystery Dinner. If you have never attended one, give it a try. We will meet at the rural home of the Cotter's at 4:00pm. Maps available. After snacks and libations with a kick, we will head north to Citrus County to an informal restaurant that specializes in seafood but also offers other items. There will be separate checks and you can order off the full menu. We will take deposits of \$10 per person to be returned to you on the date of the dinner. We will be selling tickets in the narthex. The restaurant can accommodate 60 people. If you have any questions, please call Patti 352-797-9682.

Our last meeting is April 10. We will not meet in September, as the Cotter's will be away. Our meetings will resume October 9, 2018.

We wish you a happy summer and will be starting next season with a mystery dinner in September and Fall Festival on October 27th. Thanks to my committee for a great year.

***Patti Cotter***

**CARDS R US - Wednesday, April 4 & 11, 2018 -  
12:30PM-3PM**

We'll meet in Winemiller Hall. We thank those of you who donate your used greeting cards, those of you who fashion new cards from the donated used cards, and those of you who donate \$s for our completed greeting cards. One hundred percent of the profit is given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help those in need.

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - Friday, April 13, 2018 - 10:00AM**

Friendship Circle, as well as Pastor Mattei, will assist Judy and Gil Dietz sort and deliver teddy bears and other adorable stuffed animals to the Hernando County Sheriff's Department, the Florida Highway Patrol, and the Fire Department/EMTs on Philatelic Drive on Friday, April 13. We will meet at Nativity to sort the animals and then leave at 11:30 for devotions, lunch and a meeting at Rooster's Cafe, 715 W. Jefferson St., Brooksville, followed by the critter deliveries. We thank all of you in advance for opening your hearts to donate these little animals, which are given to children experiencing traumatic events. You may leave the stuffed animals in the narthex bin. If anyone other than Friendship Circle members wants to join us, please call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

**SARAH CIRCLE - Monday, April 16, 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.**

## **MARY JOY CIRCLE – Thursday, April 12, 2018 – 12:30PM**

We will meet at the church. Facilitator will be Evelyn Lawlor. Hostesses will be Evelyn Lawlor and Joyce Bach. Bible Study will be from *Gather Magazine*. PLEASE JOIN US.

## **CRAFTY LADIES - Fridays, 9:00AM-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.

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST – Tuesday, April 17, 2018 –8:30AM**

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



## **DAYS FOR GIRLS — April 19, 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. Through the Trompeter Fund and Thrivent Financial, WON 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.**

# YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Group has scheduled several activities in the coming weeks and here they are:

**Sunday, April 8, 2018** – Youth Group Meeting after the 11am service and a fun outing for all the awesome work the Youth did for the pancake breakfast on Easter.

**Friday, May 4, 2018 – 6:00PM** – Pine Island Beach Cook Out/Sunset. Family and friends are invited to have an early celebration of the end of the school year and graduation for some of our Youth. If you would like to join us, please let Lorrie DeFrancesco know at 352-942-8744.

## ELCA YOUTH GATHERING HOUSTON

June 27—July 1, 2018



Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

This year several of our youth along with two adults will be attending. They need our help, so please support them in their fundraising events!



# OUTREACH

## MISSION OF THE MONTH—PHP/WEEKEND BLESSINGS

Weekend Blessings is a program designed to feed preschool, elementary and middle school children. Their families qualify for the Federal Free/Reduced Price Meal program. These children have little or no food on the weekends. On the last day of every school week kids participating in the Weekend Blessings program get backpacks filled with sufficient food for the weekend. On the first day of the week the kids return the backpacks.

The backpacks include easy-to-prepare and ready-to-eat food items such as granola bars, peanut butter, tuna, crackers, mac & cheese, cereal, 100% juice boxes, etc.

People Helping People in Hernando County administer, operate, and fund the program. Nativity Lutheran Church Backpack Ministry is 1 of 14 organizations that perform the logistical support needed to operate the program - the food shopping, packing, delivery and pickup of the backpacks.

The Backpack Ministry prepares approximately 110 meals a week for Pine Grove Elementary.

If you would like more information about the Backpack Ministry, please contact Nancy Fish at 352-556-2375.



# MISCELLANEOUS

## NEW PROCEDURES FOR USING NLC VISA CARD

NLC's Finance and Audit Committees has asked that **everyone** fill out a Purchase Order and get appropriate approval (from the head of the committee they are buying for) before using the church VISA.

Purchase Orders and the VISA card are available from the Church Secretary, only. When returning the credit card, a receipt must accompany it. NLC's other credit cards have been discontinued.

The procedure for other purchases made on an individual's credit card will continue as before: using a personal credit card and asking for reimbursement still requires the appropriate receipts for reimbursement.

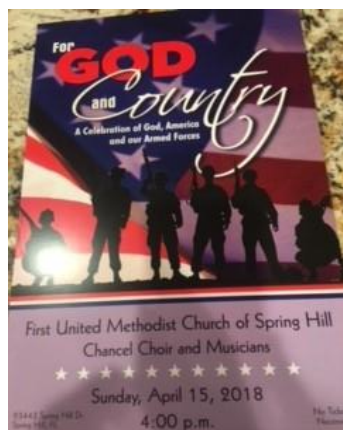
Thank you in advance for adhering to this procedure.

**NLC WORSHIP SERVICE ON WZEU-FM** -Every Sunday at 5pm the worship service is broadcast on WZEU-FM (102.9). We would like to continue this broadcast, but the station is looking to offset some of their costs. We would appreciate any donations for NLC to continue this service to the community. If you would like to contribute, please mark your donation "WZEU". Thank you.

**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**.

## **SAVE THE DATE! SEE JANE SING! – Sunday, April 15, 2018 – 4:00PM**

"God and Country" is this year's theme of the First United Methodist Church annual Spring program. Patriotic songs will be sung by the 85-person choir that includes other members of the musical community. Musicians and community singers -- including **Nativity member Jane Henkel** -- will celebrate our country's patriotism through song.



In addition, a color guard representing the various armed services will present the colors while veterans in the audience will be recognized during the program. Director David Plentincks will conduct.

The Concert will be held in the Sanctuary of First United Methodist Church, 9344 Spring Hill Drive, Spring Hill. The concert is free to the public and no tickets are required. Doors open at 3 pm.

## **REMINDERS**

If you have something that you want included in the May newsletter, please submit it to Darlene in the office or via email to [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) and to Evelyn Galli via email to [evgalli@bcany.com](mailto:evgalli@bcany.com) by **April 15**. Thank you.

Keep in mind that if want to check the NLC calendar, it is available at [www.nlcww.org](http://www.nlcww.org). In addition, on the website you can submit a request to schedule a meeting.

# THANK YOU

A special thank you to all the persons that helped to make our Gulf Coast Conference meeting such a success. Christian women working, worshiping and just being together works well to the glory of God. It was so wonderful to have Sister Michelle with us for the day.

*Women of Nativity*

I wish to thank the people of Nativity that have been so generous in funding for my home and its major problems.

*Kathy O'Brien*

# THANK YOU

Dear Pastor Mattei and Members of  
Nativity Lutheran Church,

Your expressions of love, cards, visits and prayers have been a great source of peace and comfort to my family and me. We cherish each of you as you continue to exemplify Christ's love.

Madeline Johnson, Lonora, David and  
Sara Smith

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

At NLC, we have a variety of ministries where we would appreciate you committing your time and talent to a ministry that appeals to you and where you can help. All of our ministries continue to be open to welcoming new volunteers who are interested in serving. Here are just a listing of some of those who are in need of immediate volunteers.

**BULLETIN FOLDERS** — 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.

**OFFICE HELP** - Several people are needed to help cover the office work week which includes answering phones, taking messages and assisting with routine office work. No experience needed! The office volunteers help staff respond to member requests and therefore need to be able to hear well and take accurate messages. **However, information processed through the office must remain confidential.** How much time is involved? **One regularly scheduled day of the week from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.** If interested, please contact Darlene at 352-597-1456.

**COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**— We are looking for volunteers to help with managing the website, working on issues of The Communicator, as well as publicity for NLC. If you are interested, please contact Evelyn Galli at 352-684-2261 or email [evelyn.galli@nlcww.org](mailto:evelyn.galli@nlcww.org).

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**CHURCH GARDEN VOLUNTEERS** — Green Thumb not required. Responsibilities are watering plants, keeping bird baths clean and light weeding. (*No heavy work or lifting*). A list of guidelines is available. The sign-up sheet is on the kiosk in the narthex. A list of guidelines is available to give you an idea of what to do. **Any questions, please call Linda Wagner at 352-799-8577 or JoAnne Berg at 352-596-0075.**

**COUNTERS** — 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.

**DATA ENTRY**— 2 hours once a month at church office – any week day from 9:00 am -3:00 pm. Reminder on Friday the office closes at 2:00 pm. Must be able to learn Power Church contribution software, work with numbers, and keep information confidential.

**FOOD PANTRY** - The Food Pantry is a vital ministry at Nativity and is open Monday thru Friday from 9:30am-1:00 pm. Training is available. If you are interested, call Bonnie Kuester at 352-596-8548.

## April Birthdays

Paul Schmidt	4/1
Fran DeFrancesco	4/2
Carlan Helgeson	4/3
Heather McCausland	4/3
Carolyn Beasley	4/4
Ashley Hoy	4/4
Howard Schaefer	4/5
William Hamm	4/6
JoAnne Stuck	4/6
Olivia Haaland	4/8
Lorraine Dobbe	4/11
Kay Hill	4/13
Susan Lee	4/13
Douglas Johnson	4/14
Michael Davis	4/15
Linda Hengesh	4/16
Hazel Zakel	4/16
Charles Hughes	4/18
Marty Salzbach	4/18
Giacomo Mattei	4/20
Darla Strey	4/20
Janet Brown	4/21
Jim Christensen	4/21
Gary Hopkins	4/23



James Stuck	4/21
Harriette Cochran	4/23
Ashley McCausland	4/24
Joshua Wozniak	4/26
JoAnne Morrow	4/28
Jack Chase	4/29
James Nelson	4/30
Meredith Wozniak	4/30

## April Anniversaries

Janet & Raymond DeBique	4/1
Sandra & Richard Sander	4/2
Lonora & George Smith	4/18
Lilo & Ernst Horeis	4/23
Nina Vaznelis & Dave Brooks	4/23
Charlene & Gregory Massey	4/27
Linda & Michael Thelan	4/30

