



Happenings at NLC

March 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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday Worship — March 25 • 8:30AM & 11:00AM

Maundy Thursday with foot washing ritual -

March 29 • 6:30PM

Good Friday Meditation at the Stations of the Cross -

March 30 • 5:00PM

Good Friday Tenebrae Service - March 30 • 6:30PM

Easter Sunday Eucharistic Celebration -

April 1 • 8:30AM & 11:00AM

Church Events

March 4 — Four Chaplains Memorial Service

March 10 — WON & ELCA Gulf Coast Conference

March 17 — St. Patrick's Day Party

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



COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Here we are after surviving the unusually cold Winter and looking forward to warmer days. At one point during the cold, I thought of relocating to Florida, no sooner than that thought came that it went away after I realized I didn't have to go out and shovel the driveway.

Very soon it will be Spring and as everything around us comes to life, let's think of our own life as it will be during this Lenten season, when we remember the temptation Jesus faced and overcame it to the point of His death. Having made the sacrifice of His life for our sins, take some time out to pause and think what can we do in return to the Glory of God and His church.

As I write this, the Stewardship Committee is preparing for the Celebration of Ministries Open House on Feb 24th, hopefully you have attended and made a commitment to one of the ministries in need of members. Your time and talents are welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Al Wright

SPIRITUAL LIFE

WEDNESDAY SERVICES DURING LENT - March 7, 14, and 21, 2018 — 5:45PM

During Lent, services will be held at 5:45pm on March 7, 14 and 21. Prior to the service, please join us for “Soup & Sandwiches” in Winemiller Hall from 5-5:30pm.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

***PALM SUNDAY*— March 25, 2018 - 8:30AM & 11:00AM**

***MAUNDY THURSDAY* — March 29, 2018 — 6:30PM**

Service includes foot washing ritual.

***GOOD FRIDAY* — March 30, 2018**

Meditation at the Stations of the Cross — 5:00PM

Good Friday Tenebrae Service — 6:30PM

***EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES* — April 1, 2018 — 8:30AM & 11:00AM**

The Youth will be cooking their annual pancake breakfast on Easter Sunday after both services. Breakfast will include pancakes (with toppings), scrambled farm fresh eggs, sausage and juice. Also, after the 11AM service we be having an Easter Egg Hunt. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 12 and under and kids under 4 are free. They will be sold at the Sunday services or you may purchase them from the youth.



Easter Lilies



Order your Easter Lily to adorn our sanctuary Easter Sunday for **\$8.00** each. Order envelopes are available at the display table in the Narthex. Place order envelopes in offering plate or leave them at the Church Office. Last chance to place an order will be Monday, March 26, 2018



FOUR CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL SERVICE – Sunday, March 4, 2018 – 2:30PM

This year the Four Chaplains Memorial Service will be held at Nativity in the sanctuary. A reception in Winemiller Hall will follow the service. Hope you can make it.

11AM USHERS MEETING — Sunday, March 18, 2018 - 10:15AM

We will meet in the center back of the sanctuary to schedule ushers for May, June and July. Please review your calendars and schedules prior the meeting. Keep in mind that the youth do not usher during the summer.

ALTAR GULD – March 21, 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.**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY - “JESUS’ JOURNEY TO THE CROSS: THE PASSION STORY ACCORDING TO LUKE” - Mondays, March 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2018 – 7-8:30PM

Rev. Dr. Carlan Helgeson is leading this Bible study on Jesus’ Passion in the Gospel of Luke in Winemiller Hall. The Bible is the only text and no previous Bible study experience is



CONFIRMATION CLASS – March 11 & 25, 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. They will discover how God has chosen to be close to human beings and why God is pursuing a relationship with us. This is one of the three year cycle of the Confirmation curriculum. Next year, students will explore the Christian Scriptures and then for the third year they will study Luther's Small Catechism. 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!

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION CLASS – Saturday,
March 3, 2018 – 10AM-1PM**

If you are interested in joining Nativity Lutheran Church this class is for you. We will explore our Lutheran tradition as practiced by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) and will have an overview of our ministries. Lunch is included.

**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 Sonrise National Park VBS. (The publisher is Gospel Light). The catch phrase for this VBS is "Pointing Kids to Jesus". Special thanks for Kim and Michelle for getting us the VBS starter kits and lots of goodies on sale a couple years ago!



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, sign up for a Thrivent Action Team grant. We will have a meeting soon and we hope you can help out.

COMMUNITY LIFE

WOMEN OF NATIVITY

Women of Nativity (WON) ThankOffering Service was held at Nativity on January 21 to give our ladies the opportunity to show their thankfulness to God for the year's blessings. Many ladies participated and \$1,233.75 was given to be sent to the Women of ELCA church-wide organization. We thank all who participated in the service.

Women of Nativity (WON) held elections at their annual meeting in February. New president and vice-president were elected. Our new president is Doreen Davis. Our new vice-president is Cam Martin. WON ladies are happy to welcome our new officers and will assist them in their new duties.

Doreen was raised in Arlington Hts., Illinois and raised her children in Wisconsin. She was church secretary and a member at Trinity ELCA in Waukegan, Illinois. She and her husband, Mike, have been at Nativity for a year.

Cam lived in Minocqua, Wisconsin for 30 years. She was active in Ascension Lutheran Church women's organization and also president of the Women's Synod and then 6 years on the ELCA Church-wide executive board. She and her husband, Elmer, have been at Nativity for 2 years. (Ask Cam where she got her name - CAM)

Women of Nativity (WON) thank Mary McDowell for the 9 years that she served as their president and/or vice-president.

**WOMEN OF NATIVITY – GULF COAST CONFERENCE -
Saturday, March 10th – 9:30AM Registration, 10:00AM
Conference begins**

Nativity ladies will be hosting the Gulf Coast Conference ladies at their spring meeting. Please plan to join us. Registration is at 9:30am with the conference starting at 10:00am. Afterwards, lunch will be served. Cost is \$8.00 for both registration and lunch. Sister Michelle Collins, Director of Discipleship and Communications for the Florida-Bahamas Synod, will be the speaker. There will also be a special presentation by Jill Helgeson concerning “Days for Girls.” Everyone is encouraged to bring DARK WASH-CLOTHS to be given to this project. In addition, Sister Michelle will be speaking at the Sunday morning services on March 11. Please sign up on the kiosk in the narthex. You’re in for a treat!

DAYS FOR GIRLS — March 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. 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.**

**CARDS R US - Wednesday, March 7 & 14, 2018 -
12:30PM-3PM**

We'll meet in Winemiller Hall. We love getting creative and laughing at the funny cards. All profits are turned over to Pastor's Discretionary fund to help those in need. All are welcome to join us in this much-needed ministry.

FELLOWSHIP

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARTY—Saturday, March 17, 2018 - 5:00PM

ERIN GO BRAGH, come, don your green and join us for our St. Pat's Party. Dinner will include the following taste tested dishes: Irish beef stew, Irish braised cabbage, Irish soda bread, Irish Ice Cream Sundaes. We will be entertained with some Irish music and fun and games. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids. Tickets on sale Sundays after services. 160 Maximum people can party.



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

Our final event of the season is a Mystery Dinner. This time we are getting a little more adventurous and heading to the North country, I mean county. We will meet at Cotter's for snacks and punch with a "kick" then head out to our informal restaurant. They specialize in Seafood but have other things on the menu. We will have our own room, order off the full menu and have separate checks. If you have never joined us for one of these evenings, give it a try, the next one will be in September. Maps to Cotters will be available. We will start taking deposits of \$10 per person on Sunday April 8th. Upon arriving at Cotters you will receive the money back.

If you have any questions, please call Patti Cotter at 352-797-9682.

MARY JOY CIRCLE – Thursday, March 8, 2018 – 12:30PM

We will meet at the church. Facilitator will be Mary McDowall. Hostesses will be Irmgard Timm and Jean Drach. Bible Study will be from the March issue of *Gather Magazine*. (Session Three-The Good Samaritan). 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.

GOLF OUTING—Sunday, March 18, 2018—2:00PM

The next golf outing will be held at Hernando Oaks (off of Hwy. 41), 5230 Delacroix Dr., Brooksville, FL 34604. Cost is \$15.00. We will have a light dinner in the Bar and Grill afterward. If interested, sign up is on the kiosk in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Runyan at 609-385-6679.

SARAH CIRCLE - Monday, March 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, March 20, 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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - Saturday, March 24, 2018 —

10:00AM

Friendship Circle will visit Resurrection House, part of the ELCA which works specifically with migrant families in Dade City. This is a ministry led by a remarkable woman, Margarita Romo. We will receive a tour of the Rez House campus, including visiting with girls at their Girls Center. We will meet at Nativity at 10:00 to carpool. Please bring non-perishable food donations for their Food Pantry. Dade City is an approximate 50-minute drive. Following our tour and visit, we will gather at Lunch on the Limoges. The menu price range is \$10.50-\$16.95. Because they will be busy and have just one credit card machine, it will be quicker if you can bring cash. If anyone other than Friendship Circle members wants to join us, please call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

YOUTH GROUP

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018 - Their service project for February will be at the Humane Society of the Nature Coast from 9AM-12PM with lunch afterward.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2018 - Their service project for March will be the Soup/Sandwich Lenten dinner.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018 - The Youth will have their final pancake breakfast planning as well as a Cookout, Movie and Bonfire night at the DeFrancesco's with family and friends at 6PM.

Stay tuned for many more things to come from our Youth Group.

OUTREACH

MISSION OF THE MONTH—GOLDEN RAINBOW RANCH

Golden Rainbow Ranch is a nonprofit organization for kids with disabilities or special needs to celebrate the miracle of David Baylor's recovery from a brain tumor. It is a ranch with many animals and when you go there it is a wonderful experience.

The children have fun by touring the farm, collecting eggs, feeding the animals, touching noses with an alpaca and they learn all about the animals at Golden Rainbow Ranch. Arts and crafts are also included in the program and they use recyclable items for the crafts. Children explore insects, study plants and other living things using microscopes.

They could really use our financial support between the children and animals as some unexpected expense situations do arise. If you wish to help, please make your check payable to Nativity Lutheran Church and place in a green pew envelope. On the envelope, please mark your donation "Golden Rainbow Ranch." Your generosity will certainly be appreciated.

MISCELLANEOUS

PASSION PLAY TRIP MEETING — Sunday, March 11, 2018—2:00PM

Rev. Dr. Carlan Helgeson is planning a trip to the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany (an event that is held only every ten years) for July of 2020. The tour will also go to Munich, Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden, Germany; as well as to Prague and Innsbrook, Austria. A meeting will be held on Sunday, March 11, at 2 p.m. in Winemiller Hall for those who are interested. Talk to Carlan for more info.

THURSDAY TOPS GROUP—March 8, 2018—10:30AM-1PM

Everyone is invited to hear Prof. Laura Acosta, Food Science and Human Nutrition Dept. at UF speak on nutrition. In Winemiller Hall. You don't have to be a member of TOPS to attend.

HOP 'N GLOW EASTER EGG HUNT— sponsored by CETA and Hernando Chamber of Commerce—Saturday, March 31, 2018—5:30PM-9:00PM

Will be held at Anderson Snow Park, 1360 Anderson Snow Rd.. \$3.00 per person online/\$5.00 per person at the gate. Visit www.hernandocounty.com/hop-n-glow

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**.

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.

REMINDERS

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

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

We're pleased to announce that the Wittenberg Choir will be at Lutheran Church of the Cross in St. Petersburg on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at 6PM. All are welcome at these concerts! A free will offering will be taken.

For more info, go to <https://www.wittenberg.edu/academics/music> or contact [937-327-7341](tel:937-327-7341).



THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am blessed to be a member of Nativity. I thank you all for your prayers and cards, the prayer shawl, and God's blessings. I am appreciative of God's help in my improvement and am looking forward to returning to Nativity.

Dorothy Apgar

February 2018

Dear Nativity Family,

Thank you all for participating in the services to commission me as synod parish deacon at Nativity Lutheran Church.

It was a beautiful service and greatly enhanced by your presence.

With God's help I will strive to perform the responsibilities of parish deacon with strength and compassion.

Let us carry light and love to the world!

With Appreciation,

Jack Page

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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.**

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 signup 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 - Food Pantry is a vital ministry at Nativity. It is open Monday thru Friday 9:30-1:00 pm Training is available. If you are interested, call Bonnie Kuester at 352-596-8548

March Birthdays

Evander Russell	3/2
Andreas Zybell	3/3
Pamela Anderson	3/4
Barbara Hofving	3/4
Charlene Massey	3/5
Ernst Horeis	3/8
Donna Olsen	3/8
Judith Dietz	3/10
Ella Wozniak	3/10
Gloria Wright	3/10
Joanne Johnson	3/11
Theresa Hancock	3/12
Merritt Wilkins	3/12
Marianne Mock	3/13
Deanna Corbidge	3/14
Cheryl Colombo	3/15
Douglas Siegert	3/16
Dorothy Outhouse	3/17
Leonore Kopitzke	3/19
Sam Recenello	3/20
Janet Wilkens	3/20
Elmer Martin	3/21
Marilyn Henkel	3/22
Dana LaFranca	3/22
Sean Patterson	3/24
Sandy Peeters	3/24
Amber Marie Oliver	3/26
Daniel Still	3/27
Clyde Rosten	3/29



March Anniversaries

Linda & Mark Hengesh	3/22
Karen & Gerald Flom	3/29

