



Happenings at NLC

May 2018

Monthly Newsletter

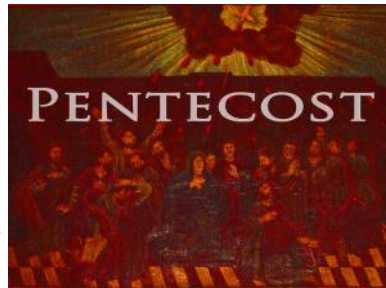
“With the birth of Jesus in our hearts,
we carry light and love to the world.”

Worship Services 8:30am & 11am

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Nativity Lutheran Church will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost on May 20 (8:30 and 11:00am).

For Christians, Pentecost is a holiday on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost, which came a few weeks after Jesus’



death and resurrection, the followers of Jesus were not organized in a movement. The Spirit brings the church into existence and enlivens it. Thus Pentecost is the church’s birthday.

Important Dates to Remember

Sunday, May 6, 2018 – Rachel’s Day

Sunday, May 20, 2018 – Pentecost

Sunday, May 27, 2018–Trinity Sunday

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



In a few weeks we will be celebrating the unofficial beginning of Summer on Memorial Weekend. It's the time to take a glance in the rearview mirror and watch the unusually long winter fade away. While sprucing up our homes in the Spring, we also think of the trips we anticipate taking to visit friends, families, resorts, and enjoy the blessings of this life God gave us.

The preparation for a journey means having everything in order, the automobile is checked out very carefully, reservations for accommodations are made, families and friends are notified, the wardrobes are updated and as we pray for good health, a safe departure and return, we are overjoyed.

Having heard Nativity Lutheran referred as a ship we are enjoying a Spiritual journey on, here we must be prepared for the continuation of this journey. In doing so everything must be in place. Many of you were guests at the Ministry Showcase held by the Stewardship Committee where the various organizations were exhibited. While there, you got an idea of our Ministries and insight of the programs, some even expressed interest by signing up.

Now is the time to follow up and step up to do your part in completing the preparedness for the journey on which Nativity Lutheran is continuing. There is the need for leaders of some ministries as some of those who were in leadership roles have relocated. With the assistance available and your willingness to give of your time and talent Nativity will be well prepared for the journey.

What better way to give thanks to God for His blessings than to give of your time and talent to Him in return.

Al Wright, President

SPIRITUAL LIFE

From Disciples to Apostles

Learning and Spreading the Good News

After Jesus was baptized, he spent approximately three years teaching, preaching and healing. People gathered to hear this man who taught with authority, unlike any others. Jesus invited people to follow him and apply his teachings. Jesus said, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your soul.” (Matthew.11:28)

Jesus taught, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (*Matthew 22: 37-40*) It sounds simple, but it is challenging to live these commandments in daily life. Jesus began with listeners, those intrigued, inspired and convicted by his teachings. Then, Jesus invited them to follow him, learning more each day. This was part of a greater plan to send his followers on a mission.

Come to a four session class and learn about Jesus’ Great Commission to his disciples after his Resurrection. The series starts on **May 2, 3:00 to 4:30pm** and ends May 23. Participants will explore the meaning of Jesus’ mission, the local churches’ understanding of the Great Commission, biblical conversion stories, and will articulate their own statement of faith drawing from personal experience.

RACHEL'S DAY—SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018

Rachel's Day is observed by Women of the ELCA annually on the first Sunday in May. The day takes its name from *Jeremiah 31:15–17*, in which the matriarch Rachel grieves for her children. It is a time set aside to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of violence and fear.

MOTHER'S DAY—SUNDAY, May 13, 2018



ALTAR GUILD – May 16, 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**.

PENTECOST—SUNDAY, May 20, 2018



Pentecost is a holiday on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus.

The Sanctuary will be decorated in red and we ask all NLC to wear **RED** that day.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE — Monday, May 21, 2018 – 2-3:30PM. We meet on the 3rd Monday of each month to develop ways to promote God’s word and spirit in our church and community. Anyone with a passion to spread God’s word is encouraged to consider being part of this group.

TRINITY SUNDAY – May 27, 2018 - 8:30 & 11:00AM

Christians remember and honor the eternal God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We remember the Father as our Creator, the Son as our Savior and the Holy Spirit as our Comforter. While the word “trinity” does not appear in Scripture, it is taught in *Matthew 28:18-20* and *2 Corinthians 13:14* along with many other Bible passages. The concept of the Holy Trinity can never be completely understood. That is the mystery. Understanding this comes through the work of the Holy Spirit; therefore, it is appropriate that this mystery is celebrated the first Sunday after Pentecost, when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit first occurred. In order to better understand Trinity Sunday, you must first know Pentecost Sunday and why it is celebrated.

NCL’S SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - Watch the entire worship service, just the sermon or just the special music on your Phone, PC, tablet or laptop. Every service is posted on YouTube with an easy access link from Nativity's website. You'll hear and see everything clearly in HD! This is available anywhere in the world 24/7.

ALSO, every Sunday night at 6pm, tune in to WZEU-FM 102.9 on your radio for a rebroadcast of our previous weeks’ Sunday Service. This station, 102.9 FM, is available throughout Hernando County. Please tell your family, friends and neighbors.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

CONFIRMATION CLASS – May 13 & 27, 2018 – 9:45AM-10:45AM

Confirmation students are studying the Hebrew Scriptures this year. 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 24 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 12 are welcome to attend as campers. Teens who have completed 6th grade and above are welcome to help as Junior Rangers. Adults are also needed each day.

Registration is now open. Forms available in the office, email nativitylutheran63@gmail.com or can be found on the NLC website on the Vacation Bible School page:

<http://www.nlcww.org/vacation-bible-school/>

COMMUNITY LIFE

WOMEN OF NATIVITY (WON)

At a recent board meeting of the Women of Nativity (WON), a discussion was held concerning an honorarium to be given in the name of Sister Michelle for her leadership and assistance at Nativity during WON's Gulf Coast Conference Spring Gathering in March. She also was a guest preacher at Nativity at that time.

A Decision was made to send a donation of \$250 to a fund started by the WELCA board to aid the youth of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, who need funds to attend the National Youth Gathering in Houston this summer.

In addition to this, it was decided to aid our youth at Nativity with a donation of \$305 for their trip to the National Gathering also. This was money that had been collected during Nativity's Lenten Suppers' offerings. GOD BLESS OUR YOUTH!!!

MARY JOY CIRCLE

At the last meeting, April 12, the circle went through a slight re-organization. Evelyn Lawlor was made Circle Leader and Mary McDowall was made Treasurer.. These positions will be held at least through the end of this year.

Discussions were held concerning the coming summer months. During June, July and August, there will be no regular Bible Studies. Monthly, the circle will enjoy going out to lunch on these regular-scheduled meeting dates.

**CARDS R US - Wednesday, May 2 & 9, 2018 - 12:30PM
-3PM**

We'll meet in Winemiller Hall where we will find time during our talking to make cards. You're all invited to shop our kiosk in the narthex and the Administration building hallway. Mother's Day is May 13. Your donation for our cards will go to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help those in need.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - Friday, May 11 2018 - Time TBD

Friendship Circle will carpool from Nativity to see a movie and then on to the Crab Shack on the Pithlachascotee River in Port Richey for a short meeting, to share devotions and a meal on Friday, May 11. The movie will be selected a few days beforehand when movie schedules are released. If anyone other than members of Friendship Circle wishes to join us, please call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

MEN'S BREAKFAST – Tuesday, May 15, 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.



SARAH CIRCLE - Monday, May 21, 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, May 10, 2018 – 12:30PM

The next meeting will be as usual, May 10, in All Lien Hall at church at 12:30. Bible Study will be from the May issue of Gather Magazine. Hostesses will be Marlene Chinici and Irene Froehlich . 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.

NATIVITY CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT – May 6, 2018 – 3PM

The next rendition of the Nativity Cup will hopefully be May 6 at 3PM at Southern Hills Golf Club, a beautiful course located on Rte. 41 just south of Brooksville. We need to have at least 20 players to have the tournament so please sign up ASAP on the kiosk in the Narthex. We can't book the event until we get 20 players so please consider signing up and ask your friends to join us. Thanks for your help.
Jim Runyan

DAYS FOR GIRLS — May 17, 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

FLOCK A FRIEND - The Youth Group would like to thank all who made this fundraising event a success. A lot of fun was had by all. Also a thank you to those who attended the Pancake Breakfast the Youth prepared on Easter Sunday. The generosity of the congregation is truly appreciated by the Youth.

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—ELCA WORLD HUNGER

More than 800 million people - that's 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry.

As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. For information please contact Jim Christiansen at 352-683-9141.

U.S. POSTAL FOOD DRIVE – Saturday, May 12, 2018 – 10AM – Drivers/driver helpers (youth); 12PM-Volunteers Needed.

Drivers and driver helpers (youth) will meet at Nativity at 10AM to receive car window recognition as a letter carrier helper. You will also receive empty banana boxes to fill when you go to Heather and Regency Oaks (once) to pick up food bags and bring them back to Forest Oaks Lutheran Church. There when your name is called, you'll received filled boxes to bring back to Nativity.

Other volunteers will meet at Nativity at 12:00PM for sandwiches, salads and refreshments. Once the drivers arrive you will unpack the food items, check expiration dates, sort items into categories and refill the boxes marking them with what items are inside. to unpack and sort items and repack.

For info, contact Ernie Horeis at 352-666-7584. If you'd like to help, there's a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

SUNDAY – May 20, 2018 - 11:00AM

Join us at the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, May 20, as we honor our 2018 graduates: Harry Elliott, Madison Gould, Ashley Hoy and Kayla Patterson. Please congratulate and keep in your prayers these young people as they continue onto the next phase of their life's journey.



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.

TAX-EXEMPT CERTIFICATE FOR NLC

This is a reminder from your Treasurer. Please remember to use Nativity's Tax-Exempt Certificate when making purchases for the Church. Using the certificate saves us from paying unnecessary state and federal sales taxes.

Don't have a Certificate? See Darlene, Jane or Barb for a copy.

THE COMMUNICATOR — The Communication Team is working on the next issue of The Communicator which will be distributed on July 1. We could use your help in getting us sponsors/advertisers to offset the printing costs. Perhaps next time you are out eating, shopping, going to dentist, getting nails or hair done, you can ask if they would be interested in running an ad. Or perhaps you'd like to include a personal message such as blessing or congratulations to someone. Cost is only \$25.00. For more info, please Evelyn Galli at 352-684-2261 or evgalli@bcany.com.

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**.



REMINDERS

MAILBOXES - We would appreciate it if, when you come to church, you occasionally check your mailbox in Winemiller Hall to see if anything was left for you. Thank you.

NEWSLETTER — If you would like to have something included in the **June** newsletter, please submit it to Darlene in the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com and also Evelyn Galli via email to evgalli@bcany.com by **May 15**. Thank you.

NLC CALENDAR — You can view it on the website, www.nlcww.org. In addition, on the website you can submit a request to schedule a meeting.

MISSION STATEMENT

With the birth of Jesus in our hearts, we carry light and love to the world, trusting that the Christmas miracle will be re-born in us.

VISION STATEMENT

We seek to become people who live the nativity by...

Giving Worship and Praise to our God:

Presenting ourselves before God as adoring servants, who, in loving God, recognize that it is no longer we who are at the center of the universe, but the One to whom we are singing our praises.

Intentionally giving ourselves as Christ's

servants: Participating in his mission in the world, helping those who need our help, both in our church family and in the world beyond: recognizing that there can never really be any peace or joy for us until there is peace and joy for others.

Opening our doors and our hearts to all

people: Welcoming all to our fellowship, caring for all in Christian love, and reaching out with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Encouraging each other to grow in faith:

Growing our understanding of the scripture and God's leading in our lives through study of the Word, meditation, and prayer; knowing that learning is not just a matter of the mind, but also of the heart, and that raising questions is sometime of more value than finding answers.

Being responsible to God through the

creative use of our income, possessions, time and talent; recognizing that loving our neighbor is not so much a feeling as it is an act of will, and that sharing what we have on behalf of the Kingdom of God is only giving back what was already God's to being with.

Celebrating the gift of life together:

Loving our neighbor, losing ourselves and then finding ourselves, having discovered that the Good news means that it is impossible not to feel joy in the presence of the Savior.

VALUES STATEMENT

We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ. We recognize that God is making us, through grace, into a fellowship that embodies and expresses the spirit of Christ. In this fellowship "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is longer mail or female, for all of us are one in Christ Jesus" (*Galatians 3:28*). We therefore welcome equally all people, regardless of religious off, position, possession, education, rate, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability, or other distinctions.

May Birthdays

Joan Beals	5/1
June Heinecke	5/2
Roselind Rosten	5/4
Taelor Hughes	5/5
Marie Hamilton	5/6
Gary Kopitzke	5/7
Eleanor Hockings	5/8
Janet DeBique	5/9
Lonora Smith	5/10
Irma Haig	5/11
Joan Marceau	5/12
Rose Dubendorf	5/13
Linda wagner	5/13
Joyce Colombo	5/14
Sandie Bates	5/15
Conrad Colombo	5/16
Alma Luoma	5/17
Judith Nelson	5/18
Ellee Simons	5/18
Lynda Bohn	5/21
Carolyn Sue Nordstrom	5/21
John Capell	5/22
Suzanne Mom	5/22
Richard Sander	5/22
Ginger Wielk	5/22



Larry Fortner	5/23
Joan Lombardo	5/24
Phyllis Olsson	5/24
Judith Rohde	5/25
Lillie Maye Gauthier	5/26
Winona Binns	5/27
Chestley Merritt	5/27
Alice Seeholzer	5/28
Monika Brennan	5/29
Connie Chase	5/29
Linda Russo	5/29
Ruth Edwards	5/30
Julie Hopkins	5/30
Irene Froehlich	5/31
Billie Tuttle	5/31

May Anniversaries

Suzanne & Richard Mom	5/1
Connie & Jack Chase	5/7
Cherylann & Bob Schneider	5/17
Sharon & Doug Johnson	5/19
Karen & Paul Chipko	5/22
Lyn & Dan Derenski	5/24
Doris & Nick Daley	5/25
Laura & Larry Fortner	5/26
Lorraine & John Dobbe	5/31

