



Happenings at NLC

June 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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 18 – 22, 2018
from 9:00am-12:15pm



Bible Stories, Crafts, Skits, Games, Music,
Water Slide, Snacks, Free Lunch and more

For more info or a Registration Sheet, please call 352-597-1456,
email nativitylutheran63@gmail.com, or visit www.nlcww.org

Important Dates to Remember

June 1 - 3: Florida-Bahamas Synod
Assembly

June 18 - 22: VBS

June 27 — July 1: ELCA Youth Gathering in
Houston

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



COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Some of you have left us and are on vacation, attending a graduation of a family member or friend, relocating, maybe even on that wedding anniversary or birthday cruise you promised yourselves.



Here at Nativity we just celebrated the graduation of four members of your Youth Group. We watched them grow up to be very responsible young people here at Nativity, having participated in every aspect of life and the community.

They performed the tasks they were assigned in a manner which we all can be proud of, knowing that as they move ahead this same approach will be an asset to them is everything they pursue. Ashley, Harry, Kayla, and Madison, we congratulate you all on attaining this goal and wish you the best of luck in the future.

As we move forward, having accomplished many of the goals set out by council in January, there will be more added to the list as Nativity keeps evolving. You will be seeing some changes taken place, and as you know when change is mentioned, being asked to embrace it can at times may be very uncomfortable. Have no fear because as we see the changes taking place in the community we must be prepared to act in a likewise manner to welcome those who enter our sanctuary in the future by reaching out to them and embracing them.

In doing so we are expressing our love to them with a hearty welcome to the house of God, welcome to the feast His Son prepared for us” This is the Spirit with which we can all love each other and help make this world a better place for all.

Here’s wishing you all a very wonderful and fun filled Summer, may the Lord be with you in all your travels and bring you back home safely to us.

Al Wright, President

SPIRITUAL LIFE

2018 FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 2018 Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly will be held June 1-3 in Kissimmee under the theme "Grounded in the Gospel." The Assembly will be a time to gather around worship, fellowship and reflection as we celebrate God's faithfulness in our midst. There will be several workshops including one titled "Grounded in the Gospel: Reading Scripture Through a Lutheran Lens" which will explore how to reclaim a vibrant, engaging, and faithful approach that views the Scriptures as God's "living Word" that can still shape our lives and the world. There will be others on stewardship, growth and discipleship. Pastor Giuseppe, Al Wright and Susan Lee will be attending from NLC.

FATHER'S DAY—SUNDAY, June 17, 2018

A graphic with the text "Happy Father's Day!" in a blue, bubbly, outlined font. The word "Happy" is on the top line, "Father's" is on the middle line, and "Day!" is on the bottom line.

ALTAR GUILD – June 20, 2018 –12:30PM

The Altar Guild committee does a lot of backstage work to prepare the worship space for Sunday and any other liturgical event during the week (such as weddings and funerals) or worship times (Wednesday Lenten services including Holy Week). They place orders for all the supplies (bread, wine, candles...), decorate the altar and pulpit with seasonal liturgical paraments, set up the altar with the elements (bread and wine) and prepare the baptismal font for Holy Baptism. To keep organized and make sure the congregation has all that is needed for worship, the committee meets once a month (except in July). For more information or to join, please call **Janet DeVico at 352-597-0150.**

STEWARDSHIP is not a Snowbird!

Activities in our church, as in many churches, slows down in the summer months. Many of our ministries have a hiatus that is often a healthy, or at least welcome, way to give our volunteers a brief rest. Here in Florida we also have some "forced" breaks because lots of "snowbirds" head north for cooler climates. Ministries dependent on those folks may have to shut down, or at least slow down because so many volunteers are just not in the area. But some ministries cannot shut down, or even slow down in the summer. Maintenance cannot stop, we still have to print and fold a weekly bulletin, communion must still be brought to shut-ins, the Worship and Music Committee still must plan the weekly services, staff still must be paid, etc.

Those that remain behind in the summer understand and accept that they might have to do a little more for a few months to keep their ministries going. Stewardship is, after all, a year-round commitment to fulfilling God's work here on earth. It is a year-round commitment to carrying light and love to the world by supporting our ministries.

One area of stewardship that often suffers in the summer months is financial support of our church. Many "snowbirds" head north and monetary giving to Nativity Lutheran Church slows down. People catch up with their generous donations in the fall but in the mean time Nativity might experience financial distress. Giving through the offering plate has met budget so far this year, but large insurance bills due this summer will be very difficult to meet with any drop off in income.

Please keep our church in mind throughout the summer. Pray for continued blessings on our ministry of which you are a significant part even from afar. If you are heading out of the area please don't let your weekly offering be a snowbird too! Thank you for your continued support of our church.

11AM USHERS MEETING—SUNDAY, June 3, 2018—10:15AM

Hello Everyone:

Again, I can't thank you enough for volunteering to usher at the 11:00 o'clock service.

I'd like to schedule an usher meeting between services on Sunday, June 3rd at 10:15 AM in the center back of the sanctuary to put together a schedule for August, September and October. Some ushers are here only during the winter leaving for the summer and some ushers travel and are gone at times in the summer. Review your calendars for those Sundays you have commitments and cannot usher. For those who are currently gone but know of a date you can possibly usher in September or October please email me and I will put your name on the schedule for that date. The Nativity Youth do not usher in August. Our goal is to usher twice in a 3-month cycle, however if you are able, please consider an extra Sunday on the schedule. As we did in the past I will pass a clipboard for each month, one for August, one for September, and one for October, each listing the Sundays for the month and 4 lines below the date for our names.

At the meeting if you have any ideas on how we can improve, or questions concerning our usher duties, let's discuss. After the meeting I will take the completed forms, type them up and email everyone a copy. Those not having an email address I will put a copy in your mail box.

If something arises and you're not able to usher on a date scheduled, contact another usher to handle the Sunday and notify the church office so the bulletin will reflect the correct volunteers.

Thanks again for your help.

Tim Cotter

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.

If you are Interested in sponsoring one of the services broadcast on WZEU in memory or honor of someone, etc., cost is \$25 and you can sign up in the Narthex and place your donation in a green envelope and mark it WZEU and place in the offering plate.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

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 Sonrise 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/>

CONFIRMATION CLASS – June 10 & 24, 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!**

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!

COMMUNITY LIFE

WOMEN OF NATIVITY (WON)

WOMEN OF NATIVITY (WON) – THURSDAY, June 14, 2018 – 9:15AM – LIMIT 15 PEOPLE.

Visit Golden Rainbow Ranch, 14412 Snow Memorial Hwy, Brooksville. Golden Rainbow Ranch is a non-profit ecotherapy center offering the perfect pastoral environment for both environmental therapy and education. A beautiful 10-acre farm in Brooksville.

Ali & Dave Baylor have a great story to tell. Take a tour of the farm and nature center and see the animals. After the tour we will go to lunch at the Rising Sun Restaurant in Brooksville

We will meet at the church at 9:15am and carpool with friends. Sign up on the poster in the narthex. Remember we have a limit of 15 persons. Please remember to wear closed toe shoes. Bring bug spray, sunscreen, hat, water bottles, veggies to feed the animals (please **NO** iceberg lettuce, carrots, or snap peas).

DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED – Bird seed, plastic 8 foot table covers, black sunflower seeds, wet canned cat food (small sizes), used tennis balls, Clorox/ Lysol wipes, Dawn dishwashing liquid detergent, dry cat food.

WOMEN OF NATIVITY (WON) – Mark your calendars! Summer Bible Study on Prayer will be held on Saturday, July 14, 2018 at 9AM. Coffee served before. All are welcome!

**CARDS R US - Wednesday, June 6 & 13, 2018 -
12:30PM-3PM**

Be sure to shop our Father's Day cards in the Administration Bldg. hallway and in the narthex. Please remember that all profits from your donations are turned over to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help people in need, including our Nativity family. Cards R Us will make cards on the first and second Wednesdays, June 6 and June 13, from 12:30-3:00pm, in Winemiller Hall. Come join the fun of making greeting cards from your donated, used greeting cards. Cards R Us donated \$815 to Pastor's Discretionary Fund in 2017. You are making a difference with your donations of used cards, your cash for re-purposed cards, and your time and talent making cards.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - Friday, June 8 2018 - 11:15AM

Are you a Beatles fan? Friendship Circle will head to Penny Lane in Dunedin on Friday, June 8. We'll meet at Nativity at 11:15 to carpool, with 12:30 reservations at Bon Appetit, followed by a visit to Penny Lane, a gem of a Beatles museum. Admission is free; all you'll need is love for the Beatles. If anyone other than a member of Friendship Circle would like to attend, please call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

MEN'S BREAKFAST – Tuesday, June 19, 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.



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. We will not meet on June 22 as VBS will be going on.

OUTREACH

MISSION ENDOWMENT

The Nativity Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Committee announces the 2017 grant awards from the David Trompeter and Dorothy Marie Trompeter Endowment Fund. The Fund was distributed to serve Global Ministries, Community Ministries and Congregational Ministries. The total amount awarded was \$67,592. The list of recipients is as follows:

Recipients	Amount
Crescent Community Clinic	\$2,500
Golden Rainbow Ranch	\$2,500
Holy Cross Food Pantry	\$1,000
Homosassa Elementary School	\$2,000
Lighthouse for the Blind	\$1,500
NAMI Hernando	\$2,000
Southeastern Guide Dogs	\$2,000
PHP Blessings	\$1,250
PHP Weekend Blessings	\$1,250
Days for Girls	\$1,000
Rez House Mission	\$7,000
NLC Chamber of Comm. Membership	\$1,000
NLC Website Subscription	\$1,000
NLC Cards R Us	\$350
NLC Communication Team	\$1,200
NLC Crafty Ladies	\$2,000
NLC Youth Gathering	\$4,000
NLC Summer Program	\$1,500
NLC Food Pantry	\$31,542
Voices for Children	\$1,000

MISSION OF THE MONTH— FOOD PANTRY

The Nativity Lutheran Church food pantry is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm to help those in need. Between 200-250 people are served each week. Donations of non-perishable items are always needed and can be dropped off during the food pantry hours or at our Sunday church services.

We are always looking for volunteers to assist us in this ministry. For more information, please contact Bonnie Kuester at 352-596-8548.

U.S. POSTAL FOOD DRIVE

The U.S. Postal Food Drive on May 12th started at Nativity Lutheran Church at 10:00am with 3 drivers and several of our youth from our Congregation helping the mail carriers pick up food items from 2 locations in Hernando County.

The items collected were taken to Forest Oaks Lutheran which is just opposite of the main post office in Spring Hill, FL. The food was unloaded and repacked into 162 banana boxes for distribution to several community food pantries, one being Nativity. 49 of our volunteers (adult and youth) checked the food for expired dates which were set aside and will be used to feed animals at shelters. The rest of the food items were sorted into categories to replenish our Food Pantry which is open 5 days a week. Total volunteer hours were 298. Everyone enjoyed the food and refreshments that Thrivent Financial for Christians provided. Thrivent also sent us tee shirts to wear.

A big thanks to all the people who donated the food items, and all the youth at Nativity who helped at Forest Oaks (In the sun) to make this Outreach a huge success.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY SERVICE PROJECT

This year at Synod Assembly (June 1-3) our servant event will focus on Harbor House in Central Florida. It is a Center that helps support victims of domestic violence. Each conference has been assigned specific items to bring to assembly to donate. Our Gulf Coast Conference of the Florida-Bahamas Synod has been assigned to focus on the needs of babies. Please donate the following items to be brought to Synod Assembly.

Baby Bottles, Toddler Cups, Bibs, Formula, Strollers (single or double), Baby Wash & Baby Lotion, Diapers (larger sizes), Pull-Ups, Baby Wipes

Gift Cards:

WalMart, Target & Bealls Outlet = \$10, \$15 & \$20 increments

RaceTrac, Wawa, 7-11 & Flying J = \$20 increments

McDonalds, Burger King, Chick-Fil-A & Taco Bell = \$5 increments

Visa/Mastercard for incidentals/gas = \$5, \$10, \$15 & \$20 increments

Please, bring your donations to church by **May 30**. Leave large items in the narthex; cards may go into a green envelope dropped in the collection basket and marked Synod Assembly Service Project.

MISCELLANEOUS

A few words from Jack Page, Financial Secretary ---

What a pleasure it is to write this "thank you" for your devoted giving to Nativity Lutheran Church. We are meeting the budget for the first quarter of 2018. This has only been possible through your donations.

As you are aware, we set a budget to meet the minimal needs of our current programs.

With God's blessing, we can look forward to expanding our offerings to a growing congregation.

God bless you, and, may He continue to bestow His grace on Nativity Lutheran Church.

THE COMMUNICATOR — The Communication Team is working on the next issue of The Communicator which will be distributed on July 1. If you would like to purchase a personal message (in honor or in memory), there are sheets on the kiosk in the narthex. Cost is \$10.00. Just fill out the sheet and include with your payment in a green envelope, mark it "Communicator" and place in the offering plate.

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 **July** 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 **June 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 reborn 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 male 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, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability, or other distinctions.

MAIL

Hello,

My husband and I come to your church every time we visit Frank's mother and sisters. We find the congregation very welcoming and the services very spiritual and meaningful.

We unexpectedly were in Weeki Wachee during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday. Nativity provided us with much solace and spiritual comfort during that week. The introductory welcome by Pastor Mattei on Easter morning was so apt at this time for all of us who struggle to live as Jesus did. If possible, please send me a print-out of his welcoming remarks.

Thank you all for sharing your warmth, welcome, and spirit of Godly love.

See you in the fall.

Sincerely,

Frank and Ann Cooper Augustine
18 Cambridge Dr., Irwin, PA 15642

To my Church Family,

Thanks for all the prayers, concerns, rides and phone calls during my recuperation from surgery. I appreciated them.

Blessings to all,

Terry Halgren

June Birthdays

Sue Brown	6/2
Michael Thelen	6/2
Gilbert Dietz	6/3
Kendall Wells	6/3
Lester Hanneman Jr.	6/5
Karen Crawford	6/6
Robert Oliver Jr.	6/6
Royale Pugh	6/6
Gail Zboray	6/8
Buddy Kristoferson	6/9
Judith Foley	6/11
Jill Helgeson	6/11
June Kristoferson	6/12
Carl Lundh	6/14
Sharon Johnson	6/15
Richard Johnson	6/16
Bill Morman	6/16
Delores Semmel	6/16
Lamar Semmel	6/17



Pat Wilkins	6/17
Lynn Roa	6/18
Linda Borowski	6/19
Robert Corbidge	6/20
John Seidl	6/20
Madeline Johnson	6/22
Brian Wagner	6/27
Dorothy Apgar	6/28
Joanne Schaub	6/28
Doris Daley	6/29

June Anniversaries

Beverly & Glenn Houdek	6/1
Cheryl & Andreas Zybell	6/4
Carolyn & Jimmy Beasley	6/8
Lynda & Robert Bohn	6/8
Patricia & James Runyan	6/8
Carole & Howard Schaefer	6/8
Meredith & Joshua Wozniak	6/8
Barbara & Robert Mattox	6/9
Alice & Kendall Wells	6/9
Jill & Carlan Helgeson	6/11
Beth & John Sannuto	6/11
Kathie & Paul Schmidt	6/11
Sharon & Philip Schroeder	6/11
Karin & James Glessner	6/12
Nancy & Douglas Sieger	6/12
Peggy & Robert Sanders	6/14



Gloria & Richard Mraz	6/13
Patti & Timothy Cotter	6/14
Deanna & Robert Corbidge	6/18
Norma & Arthur Diedrich	6/18
Marilyn & Philip Bruden	6/19
Connie & Roger Wendrzycki	6/19
Pamela & Larry Anderson	6/20
Cam & Elmer Martin	6/30