



July 2018

Quarterly Magazine

3rd Issue

The Communicator



IN GOD WE TRUST

E pluribus unum - Latin for "Out of many, one" was the unofficial motto of the United States. It was included on the Great Seal of the United States which was created and adopted in 1782, but the motto itself was never approved by Congress.

Inspired by the words in the 5th verse of the Star-Spangled Banner, "In God We Trust" is the official motto of the United States of America and of the State of Florida. It was adopted as the nation's motto in 1956 replacing *E pluribus unum*.

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 & 11:00 AM

Children's Sunday School

9:45 to 10:45 AM

PASTOR'S PASSION



Pastor Mattei

The Commission to share Jesus— Today's Evangelism

Jesus commissions us to share His love and spread his teachings. As we read in **Matthew 28:19-20** ***"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age".***

How do we share what our heart knows? How do we put our faith into words so that others can understand and what Jesus wants them to hear? How do we move from being a disciple, a follower of Jesus, to an apostle, one who is sent out as a messenger?

The **first** step is prayer. Asking Jesus to help us see His will. Asking Him to give us the courage to share His gift of love and salvation. **James 1:5** ***"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him".***

Second, studying is the key to knowing how to explain and defend our faith. Reading the bible and attending bible studies gives us the knowledge to express what's in our hearts and explain it to others. **1 Peter 3:15** ***"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect".***

Third, make an effort to announce your faith openly, praising or thanking God for the gifts He has given us. Like, "Thank you Lord for my family, friends or neighbors" or saying grace before a meal with loved ones and guests. **Isaiah 12:4** ***And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted".***

Fourth, as the saying goes *"Actions speak louder than words"*. Make the effort to help a neighbor, take the time to speak to a stranger or listen patiently to the lonely. **1 Corinthians 11:1-2** ***"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you".***

Fifth, invite others, members and non-members, to join us at worship, a ministry activity or a social event at church. Hand out flyers at a civic event. Joy is contagious and it opens minds and hearts. **2 Corinthians 5:20** ***"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us".***

These are some of the things we can do to achieve the commission Jesus gave us and be a messenger evangelist in today's world. ***"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another". John 13:35***



4 AREAS OF MINISTRY

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

Spiritual Life

Jack Page

jack.page@nlcww.org

Ruth Ann Hoy

ruthann.hoy@nlcww.org

Outreach

June Kristoferson

june.kristoferson@nlcww.org

Christian Ed

Janet Jones

janet.jones@nlcww.org

Community Life

Susan Lee

susan.lee@nlcww.org

Columbarium

& Pavers

Mercy Ministry

Communion

& Visitation

Grief Support*

Prayer Chain

Stewardship

Worship & Music

Acolytes & Crucifers

Altar Guild

Assisting Ministers

Audio-Video

Bulletin Folders

Choir

Drama & Puppets*

Greeters

Nativity Ringers

Nursery

Readers

Sanctuary Team

Ushers

Backpack Ministry

Communication

Team

Evangelism Team

Food Pantry

Inter-Denominational
& Inter-Faith

Ecumenical Team*

Fund Raisers

Membership Team

Mission & Outreach

Mission Endowment

Thrivent

Adult Forum

Archives

Celebrations

Baptism

Bible Study

Confirmation

Funerals

Weddings

New Members

Children's Sunday

School

Library

VBS

Youth Ministry

Luther League*

Youth Advisory

Council

Book Club

Coffee Hour

Fellowship

Finance Committee

Audit

Counters

Data Entry

Gardens

Golf

Hospitality

Lay Leadership

Memorial

Men's Group

Mutual Ministry

Parish Nurse*

Property & Safety

Women of Nativity

Cards R Us

Crafty Ladies

Days for Girls

Friendship Circle

Mary Joy Circle

Sarah Circle

*All Ministry and Council
meetings welcome anyone
who wishes to attend.*

*Under Consideration



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BIBLE STUDY

From Disciples to Apostles

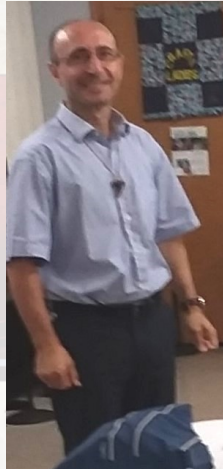
Learning and Spreading

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.

Our four-session class from May 2 to May 23 went fast. We learned about some of the different faith



communities' applications of Jesus' Great Commission (the mandate to spread the Word) to his disciples after his Resurrection. We explored the meaning of Jesus' mission, the local churches' understanding of Jesus' way of life, looked at biblical conversion stories and articulated our own statement of faith drawing from personal life experiences. We appreciated every person's faith sharing and realized that conversion is not necessarily a one-time dramatic event but can take place over a period of time. By remembering our personal encounter with Jesus and reflecting on it, we become more confident and are equipped to make a defense of our faith and hope (1 Peter 3:15).



A new session is planned for the Fall. Consider Jesus' call to study His word and make the time to attend the Fall session of “From Disciples to Apostles”.



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



OUTREACH

MISSION AND OUTREACH

There are so many ways to make a positive impact in our world and one of the greatest things we can do as a church family is to reach out to those in need. This is why Nativity Lutheran Church encourages its members to be actively engaged in our community and our world through serving others and sharing God's love with them. You can help change the world around us and at the same time get to know members of the church by actively participating in the different missions and outreach opportunities.

Each month, Nativity Lutheran Church features a "Mission of the Month". In addition to the monthly missions listed below, we support several other missions throughout the year. These missions are announced in our Sunday Bulletin and in our Weekly Announcements.

Monthly missions for 2018 include:

January: Thrivent Community
Action Teams



February: A New Generation

March: Golden Rainbow Ranch



April: People Helping People and Weekend Blessings

May: ELCA – World Hunger

June: Food Pantry



July: Resurrection (Rez) House –
Dade City



August: Luther Springs

September: Global Mission
Haiti



October: Stewardship



*Put your money
where.....*

November: Angel Tree Christmas Program

December: Food Pantry

If you would like more information or would like to join the ministry, please contact Susan Lee, the Ministry Area Leader at 586-405-3129 or email susan.lee@nlcww.org



Golden Rainbow Ranch





This year's VBS was a huge success and it would not have been possible without the support we received from our volunteers, those who helped decorate, those who contributed monetarily including Thrivent cards, and those who contributed food, snacks and other materials.



Join us for Sunday School every Sunday 9:45am

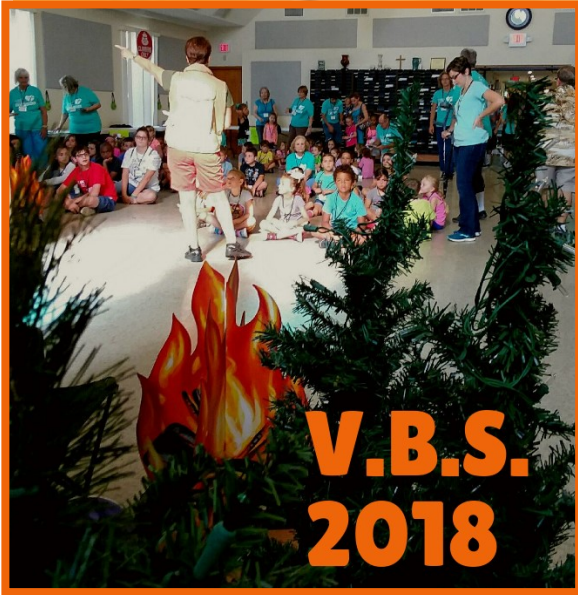




VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



A ministry in the Christian Education Group



Future members of the Bell and Chime Choir!!!



Learning Songs



Sunday Bells & Chimes



Puppets & Music



SPIRITUAL LIFE

Communion and Visitation

A bereaved husband placed 3 stacks of calling cards on the communion rail. Each 4-inch stack was tied with a ribbon. When he was asked what they were, he explained that each stack represented a year's worth of cards from the Communion and Visitation members who had come to see his wife over the 3 years she was in assisted living. He had saved them and wanted the church to know how much the visits meant not only to his wife, but also to him.



Many folks retire to the Florida for the weather and the favorable cost of living. The biggest drawback is being without close family and friends. It is also hard on relatives who can't get here or at least not quickly, nor can they stay for long periods of time. The church becomes their surrogate family. Just like that favorite aunt, brother or friend who checks in on you, they bring a few minutes of prayer, joyful love and the world beyond their current situation. This is what the Communion and Visitation Ministry does.

Pastor Mattei, Janet Jones and Clyde Rosten were interviewed for this article. Their passion for this ministry is intense and very moving, as are the stories from members who shared the love, joy and comfort they and their loved ones experience as a result of the visits.

The Communion Ministers who bring the remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ to members who are unable to attend Worship Services report that they too receive as much joy from bringing communion as the recipients do.

There are two ways you can help. First, if you know of someone who is hospitalized, in rehab, in assisted living or home bound, call the church with their name and the facility. Also, please stay in touch with the individual and let the church know if they move to another facility or are released to go home. This ensures visits are not missed. The second thing you can do is consider joining this ministry. Currently there are volunteers for Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday but Tuesday and Saturday do not have coverage. Another consideration would be to volunteer as a substitute, providing much the needed backup. For more information contact Pastor Mattei.

"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the LORD. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the LORD will raise them up."

James 5:14-15



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COMMUNITY LIFE

GOLF MINISTRY

The Nativity Golf Ministry is one of the several groups of the Community Life Ministry headed by Susan Lee. It meets monthly from October through May to play golf and enjoy fellowship with other Nativians and their friends.



The Golf Ministry was started in 2009 by the Nativity's Small Group Coordinating Committee chaired by Patty Trevor and Bob Drach. In February of 2010, the group conducted a survey of the congregation to find out what kinds of small groups might be of interest to members of the congregation. The results revealed a strong interest in golf, among other things.

Golfing in the Nativity Ministry revolves around teams of 4—usually randomly assigned by the organizer. This allows for all skill levels from 'duffer' to 'experienced'. Most times there are 20 players that equals 5 foursomes vying for the honor of the first and second place trophies and a closest-to-the-pin statue on a designated Par 3 hole.

The game is played as 'best ball' among each foursome; that is, each player tees off and whoever drives his/her ball the furthest or has the best lie/placement is where the foursome hits from the second

time. This type of game continues until the ball is putted into the cup. The scoring is figured for the team. The team with the least cumulative number for nine holes, wins. Each organizer of the event may add rules and regulations for the fun of the game; but most times, it is played as standard 'best ball'.

Each month a volunteer organizer places a sign-up sheet with the logistics posted in the Narthex for those to express their interest in playing that month. Usually, there is a minimum number of players needed to ensure the price of play and a golf cart for each twosome. Historically, nine-hole games are played on the third Sunday of the month beginning at 2 pm. Afterwards, dinner is arranged by the organizer either at the Club House of the golf course or a nearby eatery. Spouses of the players are encouraged to join the supper fellowship.

The Golf Ministry is a fluid group and ANYONE who has an interest in golf is encouraged to join any month. Golf logistics are posted in advance in the Bulletin's



Scott & Jane Henkel with Vicki & Jack Page

Weekly Announcements. Any questions regarding the Golf Ministry can be directed to Victoria Page at 352-601-8579 or email jackvictoriapage@tampabay.rr.com



FELLOWSHIP

A ministry in the Community Life Group

Nativity's Fellowship Committee organizes a monthly social activity for our congregation, from September through April. The monthly activities give our Nativity family a chance to get to know one another and to join with old friends. Patti Cotter has chaired this group for nearly 14 years, with plenty of assistance from husband, Tim. She and Tim do much of the shopping and organizing. And they do an outstanding job. Plus, it is not an overstatement to say that there is no one like Patti behind a microphone!



There are about a dozen members on the Fellowship Committee. They meet on second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 in Winemiller Hall. Meetings are on hiatus for now but will begin again in September. The committee is always happy to welcome new members, even if, as an initiation, new members are assigned to serve ice cream at their first function! They can always use more members. All are invited to join in planning and hosting Nativity's social activities. Twice a year, the Fellowship Committee has their own parties and are they fun!

Patti says she never would have chaired the Fellowship Committee for this long if she didn't have such a wonderful committee. She states she always gets the thanks, but the committee members are the ones who deserve it. And they work together like a fine-tuned machine.



Popular activities include Fall Festivals, Ham-a-ramas, fashion shows (sometimes donated Junktique clothing), mystery dinners, spaghetti dinners, St. Patrick's Day parties, theater outings, stone salad Sundays, Chinsegut Hill museum and anything else they can think of. As you are out and about, if you see a possible Fellowship activity, please let someone on the Fellowship Committee know. They welcome your suggestions.

In the past, these activities have helped fund new flooring, as well as new tables and chairs for both halls.

Please contact Patti if you would like to join the group or have an idea at 352-797-9682 or pattiwithani@tampabay.rr.com



Patti Cotter



YOUTH

A ministry in the Christian Education Life Group

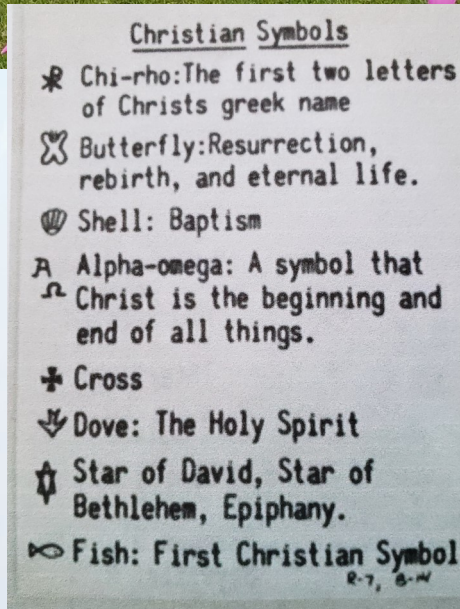
Thank you to all of our wonderful supporters who were instrumental in aiding the Nativity Lutheran Youth Group. The youth worked hard and your contributions of funds and/or your valuable time greatly contributed to preparing our youth for the National Youth Gathering. Your feedback and compliments have been gracious and much appreciated.

Many of you experienced “being flocked” or welcomed the opportunity to flock a friend. For the youth, it turned into much more than we ever imagined. The best part of “flocking” someone was the joy it brought to those who were being “flocked”. We only wish the person who requested the flocking could have experienced that joy as the youth group knocked on the door or notified the person by phone or text that they had been were “flocked”. It was a wonderful way for our youth to get to meet members of our congregation.

In addition to “Flocking”, the youth planned, prepared and held the annual Easter Pancake Breakfast. They brainstormed and incorporated some changes to make it more exciting for them to prepare.

Some new additions this year were the scrambled eggs and pancake toppings. We also, with the help of many “Great Minds”, created a better flow and optimized the use of the electricity in the hall. We would like to thank our many breakfast attendees, the awesome people who donated items and our wonderful adult helpers. Because of **all of you**, the breakfast was a success.

The ELCA Youth Gathering rings were donated by Bonnie and Bill Fedde for all the youth attending the gathering, chaperones and high school graduates. The rings are handmade of sterling silver and have Christian symbols on them. Each of the symbols have a significant meaning.



To learn more please contact Frank or Lorrie DeFrancesco at 352-942-2844 or email Ljdefran2323@gmail.com





HISTORICAL—Did you know?

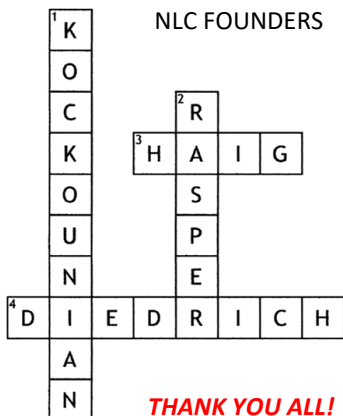
The Nativity Cup

Nativian golfers Ned Long and Bob Drach had the idea to build a traveling prize or trophy for the first-place team winners. Leftover mahogany wood and a wooden goblet found at a thrift store were the beginnings of the first-place prize, affectionately known as The Nativity Cup. It has since been updated with golf tees, halved golf balls, a small flag and a cutout star representing the Bethlehem Star, for Nativity. Ned Long fashioned the trophy using his woodworking skills and Bob Drach's woodworking tools. The second-place traveling team trophy was made with a twisted cup depicting a funny golf saying and mounted on more scrap mahogany; this second place 'cup' is now in its second rendition as it was dropped by a previous winner.

UNSCRAMBLE CHURCH COUNCIL LAST NAMES

1. GHWITR _____
2. WIESL _____
3. SEJNO _____
4. KENLHE _____
5. EPAG _____
6. GILAL _____
7. FRIONKESOTRS _____
8. SDNIRKEE _____
9. ELE _____
10. EIAMTT _____

NLC FOUNDERS



THANK YOU ALL!

Happy 4th of July!

A very special thank you to the Growth and Trompeter Funds for their sponsorship of *The Communicator*. and the dedication of Communications Team!

Put your personal message, thank you or ad here for a \$10 donation to support this NLC quarterly magazine!

Your message is limited to 100 characters including spaces and punctuation.

ANSWER TO NAME SCRAMBLE
 1. Wright 2. Lewis 3. Jones
 4. Henkel 5. Page 6. Galli
 7. Kristoferson 8. Derenski 9. Lee
 10. Matte!

