



# Happenings at NLC

August 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

## Women of Nativity (WON)

**KITS FOR CARE—SCHOOL KITS**  
A Project of Lutheran World Relief

Donations accepted until August 14;

Assembly of the kits on August 15 at 9am

## FUNDRAISER - FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

August 31—6:30pm-9pm

Choice of: Paul, Apostle of Christ or I Can Only Imagine

### Important Dates to Remember

August 11 — Luther Springs trip

August 12 - Blessing of Backpacks

August 15 - Kits for Care Assembly

August 31 - Fundraiser “Friday Night at the Movies”

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



## *COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S LETTER*

As I mentioned in an earlier letter, there will be changes made to keep our church on this journey as we move ahead. There is always the need to pause and check where we came from, where we are, and prepare to move on giving thanks to the Almighty every step of the way.

With the assistance of some Council members and other members of our congregation, the business aspect of Nativity Lutheran church has been going through a state of transition. All aspects of operations have been reviewed, office supplies and equipment have been inventoried, all files and data are currently being updated to have the business of our church operating more efficiently. New guidelines and operational procedures are also being updated for the benefit of incoming personnel.

A call was sent out for volunteers to assist in the office, we need as many persons as possible and the call is still opened as anyone signing up will be exposed to some aspects of the office operations. This helps us create a list for our Office Volunteer Ministry. Your assistance will help expedite the process as we continue, the sign-up sheet is available in the main office, or you may call to set up a day and time convenient for you.

On behalf of the congregation, I want to thank those involved in this period of transition for the wonderful job you have done at this time.

A "To Do" list is in the making for your Council as we prepare to resume our work this month. We want to thank you our congregation as we have been upholding our commitment to all vendors on a timely and economical basis, however we are also updating all contracts to operate more frugally.

I would be remiss not thanking those members of the choir who gave of their talents with solos during the Summer Services. Great job guys, also to our choir director Donna, and to Pastor Phil for celebrating in the absence of Pastor Mattei, our congregation is blessed to have such talented members.

God loves you, and so do I.

*Al Wright, President*

# SPIRITUAL LIFE

**BLESSING OF BACKPACKS — Sunday, August 12, 2018 - 8:30AM & 11:00AM services.** We invite all teachers, school personnel and students to either the 8:30am and 11:00am service for a special blessing.

**ALTAR GUILD - August 15, 2018 - 10AM**

Our next meeting will be at 10am in the Library. For more info, please contact Janet DeVico at 352-598-0150.

**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.

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.

Please keep our church in mind throughout the summer. Thank you for your continued support of our church.

**NCL'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE** - Every service is easily accessible from Nativity's website. **ALSO**, Sunday night at 6pm, tune in to WZEU-FM 102.9 on your radio for a rebroadcast of our previous weeks' Sunday Service. If you are Interested in sponsoring one of the services broadcast on WZEU in memory or honor of someone, cost is \$25 and place your donation in a green envelope and mark it WZEU and place in the offering plate.

# **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)**

**YOUTH GROUP GET TOGETHER - Thursday, August 2, 10PM-3PM.**

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** – No classes in August.

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

## **OUTREACH**

**FUNDRAISER - FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES - August 31, 2018 - 6:30PM-9:00PM.**

Our Nativity family will hold a fundraiser for Kathy O'Brien. Kathy's home, which she shares with her daughter and four grandchildren, has literally had one thing after another go wrong in the last few months. First, mold was discovered in a bathroom. Secondly, the septic tank failed and had to be replaced. And, finally, the A/C died. So, we invite you to come out to enjoy one of two movies we'll be showing, one in each hall. And help Kathy, at the same time.

**Paul, Apostle of Christ**, rated PG-13 because of some violence and disturbing images, is the true story of two men. Luke, friend and physician, risks his life every time he ventures into Rome to visit Paul, who is held captive in Nero's darkest, bleakest prison cell. Before Paul's death sentence is enacted, Luke resolves to write a book that details the beginnings of "The Way" and the birth of what will become the church. The film is 108 minutes in length and will be followed by a brief discussion.

**I Can Only Imagine**, rated PG because of thematic elements and some violence, is a drama for kids and families. It's the inspiring and unknown true story behind MercyMe's beloved, chart-topping and beautiful song, "I Can Only Imagine", that brings ultimate hope to so many. It is a gripping reminder of the power of true forgiveness. The film is 110 minutes in length and will be followed by a brief discussion.

Popcorn, soda pop and O'Doul's non-alcoholic beer will be available for a donation. Any amount you can donate will be appreciated. So come out and pick a movie! You can also use a green pew envelope and mark it "Kathy O'Brien Fundraiser".

## MISSION OF THE MONTH — LUTHER SPRINGS

Did you know that we have our very own retreat just a couple hours away? Looking for spiritual inspiration with a touch of nature...then Luther Springs is a place to experience. It is our featured mission of the month that includes fun, faith and friends. Luther Springs offers a place to stay in cabins or campsites for weekend or week retreats and is known for its beautiful scenery, outdoor prayer and meditation areas plus serene, peaceful walking paths to the lake. It is also a place to spend a day - just a nice drive away. Some ways to "Get Inspired" at Luther Springs are retreat offerings for men; women; a Grands weekend for grandparents and grandkids; Quilting/Creating; Family Camps, Youth Lock-ins; Confirmation Faith Formation; plus time to connect with your group. We challenge you to explore what Luther Springs has to offer and give to a local, spiritual retreat. For more information about specific offerings and dates, go to [www.luthersprings.org](http://www.luthersprings.org) to browse information about Luther Springs.

Nativity will have a group traveling on Saturday, August 11, 2018 for the dedication of a new addition to their Living Lab Outdoor School (the camp's environmental education program). The Living Lab curriculum meets the environmental education requirements for Florida's elementary school students. The program will begin at 10am on Saturday, August 11, 2018 which includes dedication of the Cinda Morgan Lakeside Pavilion which provides the outdoor school a lakeside classroom following by worship and a BBQ lunch. The next part of the Mission Possible Campaign and second addition to the Living Lab Outdoor School is the Teaching Dock. Funds are being raised now for this next addition. Pastor Giuseppe will be attending and hopes others will join him. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to [asarah624@gmail.com](mailto:asarah624@gmail.com) or 352-546-5554.

# COMMUNITY LIFE

## WOMEN OF NATIVITY (WON)

### Kits of Care - School Kits

#### A Project of Lutheran World Relief

The Women of Nativity are collecting these school items for this special project:

- 80-sheet notebooks, wide or college-ruled
- 30-centimeter rulers, or with cm on one side, inches on the other
- Pencil sharpeners, simple hand-held type
- Blunt scissors, safety scissors with embedded steel blades
- Pencils, unsharpened #2 with erasers
- Pens, black or blue ballpoint (no gel)
- Crayons, 16 or 24 boxes
- Erasers, 2 ½"



We will be collecting these items in a box in the narthex until August 14.

**On Wednesday, August 15 at 9:00am we will be assembling the backpacks in Winemiller Hall.**

**Donations can also be made in the green envelopes in the pews and mark it "Kits of Care."**

**Thank you for your help in providing school supplies to children in need.**

## **FELLOWSHIP – PATTERN FROM PATTI**

Can't believe that our Fellowship Season is starting again. Have you missed us? Here is what is coming up:

### **MYSTERY DINNER - SEPTEMBER 20, 2018 - 4PM AT CHURCH**

Our first Mystery Dinner of the season. We will be attending a local restaurant where we have selected a good variety of dishes for you to choose from. Meet at church at 4:00 for appetizers and then you will move on to the unknown location. In order to reserve your spot please give a \$10.00 per person deposit which will be returned to you at church. An easy way to do it is to make a check out to Nativity Fellowship and you will just get the same check back. If you have never attended a Mystery Dinner before, give it a try as it is always a fun time.

### **FALL FESTIVAL - October 27, 2018 - 5:00PM**

Time for our annual Fall Festival, hopefully no rain this year. We will start selling tickets on September 30th, and there are 160 available. It is a great dinner of brats, hot dogs, potato salad, chips, baked beans, salad, apple pie a la mode. The tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$1.00 for kids. Luther League kids are our treat since they will be helping with the chairs, fire, and marshmallows. We look forward to gathering around the fire for terrific music, fun and fellowship. It is a great night for the whole family, do join us.

We are working with the German club for a November event more details later. If you have questions that can't wait you can call the church office, since we will be on the move. See you in September. *Patti Cotter*

**WOMEN OF NATIVITY (WON)** – Remember to save your box-top coupons from cereal boxes, etc. AND pop-top tabs from soda drinks and soup cans, etc. Place them in the collection bin in front of the office in the admin building.

**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. Please call Lilo Horeis at 352-666-8584 with any questions.

**PAINTING CLASS - Wednesday, August 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2018 - 10AM-12 NOON.**

Join us for oil painting to express your creative mind! We will meet every Wednesday in Al Lien Hall. For more information contact Germaine Major at 352-686-0416 or Penny Morman at 352-888-1829.

**CARDS R US - Wednesday, August 1 and 8, 2018 - 12:30PM-3PM**

Cards R Us will make cards out of your donated, used greeting cards in Al Lien Hall. Come join our fun and fellowship as you make cards, which are available to our congregation and visitors for a donation. All profit is given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help people in financial need.

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - Friday, August 31, 2018 - 6:30PM**

Friendship Circle's August activity will be assisting with the August 31 fundraiser for Kathy O'Brien, whose home has developed mold and has required septic tank and A/C replacements. She shares her home with her daughter and four grandchildren. This fundraiser will be a Friday movie night, beginning at 6:30pm, showing "*Paul the Apostle*" in Winemiller Hall and "*I Can Only Imagine*" in Al Lien Hall.



## **MEN'S BREAKFAST – Tuesday, August 21, 2018 –**

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.



## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **SOUL SEEKERS - SAVE THE DATE!**

We would like to welcome you to be a part of a Spirituality Group at Nativity Lutheran Church. This group is designed to support and encourage our relationships with God as we face the challenges and joys together. We will meet the second Monday of the month beginning September 10, 7:00 to 9:00 pm. This group is open to all...Young, not so young, male, female, community members, members, friends anyone who is seeking and has a willingness to explore their relationship with God is welcome! Questions please contact Michelle Mehan-Conklin at 727-267-1047 or email at [shelltbfb@hotmail.com](mailto:shelltbfb@hotmail.com).

### **SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, September 8, 2018**

Be a part of the "ELCA God's Work, Our Hands" by carpooling with us to Luther Springs. It will be a day of service that may include clearing trails, chopping wood, painting, cleaning, sorting and organizing or a special building project. There will be some down time to enjoy the lake by canoe, walking the spiritual paths or cooling off in the pool. Come join us for this service day and enjoy the beauty with other Nativity members young and young at heart amongst the serene and beautiful Luther Springs. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Lorrie DeFrancesco at (727) 667-7293.

**POLLING PLACE** - NLC's Winemiller Hall is be used as a polling place for the primary election on August 28. Therefore, Winemiller Hall will NOT be available from noon on August 27 until noon on August 29 and access to the space is prohibited.

## **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.

### **REMINDERS**

**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 the office at **352-598-1456**.

**MAILBOXES** - When you come to church, please take a moment to check your mailbox in Winemiller Hall and see if anything was left for you. Thank you.

**NEWSLETTER** — If you would like to have something included in the **September** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) and also Evelyn Galli via email to [evgalli@bcany.com](mailto:evgalli@bcany.com) by **August 15**. Thank you.

**NLC CALENDAR** — You can view it on the website, [www.nlcww.org](http://www.nlcww.org). In addition, on the website you can submit a request to schedule a meeting.

## August Birthdays

Timothy Cotter	8/2
Connie Wendrzycki	8/2
Jared Gould	8/3
Peggy Sanders	8/3
Kenneth Strey	8/3
Michael Brennan	8/5
Linda Thelan	8/6
Candice Kochounian	8/9
Sean Mrozowski	8/9
Mary Smart	8/9
Zachery Burchhardt	8/11
Victoria Page	8/13
Jane Henkel	8/14
Nancy Salzbach	8/14
Charles Simons	8/15
Claude Major	8/16
Mary Holmes	8/17
Jean Drach	8/18



Nicholas Daley	8/20
Ian MacLean	8/20
Elizabeth Deon	8/22
Kristine Kopitzke	8/22
Robert Oliver Sr.	8/22
Diane Dietz	8/23
Paul Holmes	8/24
Donald Chelf	8/25
Karen Glessner	8/25
Gregory Massey	8/25
Giuseppe Mattei	8/25
Patti Cotter	8/27
Donald Taylor	8/28

## August Anniversaries

Kathleen & Arthur Olsen	8/2
Michele & Robert Oliver Sr.	8/8
Janet & Sam Recenello	8/9
Judith & John Seidl	8/12
Judith & Glibert Dietz	8/14
Julie & Gary Hopkins	8/15
Judith & James Nelson	8/18
Margaret & Stephen King	8/19
Gloria & AL Wright	8/19
Dale & Charles Hughes	8/21
Carol & Kendall White	8/21
Karen & Clarence Crawford	8/22
Eleanor & William Hockings	8/22
Diane & Art Alt	8/24
Sandy & Guy Peeters	8/24
Margret & John Ahlquist	8/27

