



Happenings at NLC

December 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

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 9, 2018

9:45am in Winemiller Hall

Nativity Lutheran Church Council
Members hope you will be able to
attend this very important meeting.

Important Dates to Remember

December 4 - Ribbon Cutting & Midday Prayer

December 9 – Congregational Meeting

December 16 – 11am Christmas Cantata

December 19 – 6pm Longest Night Service

December 24 – Christmas Eve services at 4pm & 10pm

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



COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

As my service on council for the past three and a half years comes to an end, the last two being at the helm of Nativity, I take this time to give you a recap of this experience.



When called to serve the remaining term of a resigning member, after prayerfully considering the invitation, I accepted the call. After completing that term, I was elected Vice President in December 2015 and served in that position until being elected President of the Congregation in December 2016. For this I felt prepared having had past experience.

You may remember me using the analogy of taking a ship on a journey and challenged you to, having looked up in the sanctuary, you'll see the construction is the replica of an inverted boat. You all were then asked to put your imaginary oar into the water and help us row Nativity Lutheran on this Spiritual journey.

Without the contributions of the other Council members nothing would have been accomplished. Without the help of this congregation nothing could have even been achieved. For that I express my sincere thanks.

There were many items placed on the "To Do List" which were accomplished, however knowing that a "To Do List" never ends because as one item is removed two more are added. Such is the life and situation at Nativity Lutheran Church.

As leadership will be turned over to the incoming Council, I want to express my sincere thanks to those members with whom I've worked on Council. Your input and participation in the process of the administration of the business of Nativity has been exemplary.

I'd be remiss if I didn't express thanks on behalf of my wife Gloria and myself for embracing us as you have, and to those members who reached out to us during my surgery a little over a year ago.

May God richly bless you all.

Al Wright, President

SPIRITUAL LIFE



While most of the world rushes to celebrate Christmas, the church observes the season of Advent, four weeks of preparation and anticipation beginning Sunday, December 2nd. We are waiting not only for our celebration of Christ's birth but also for his second coming. Each week in Advent we will light the Advent wreath. Join us in worship as we journey through Advent toward the joy of the Christmas season.



Poinsettia order envelopes will be available in the Narthex at the Poinsettia display table. Orders must be received at the church office by Tuesday, December 18.

Please consider ordering a Poinsettia to provide a dramatic visual impact for our Christmas worship celebration.

Still \$8.00 each.

MIDDAY PRAYER TO BEGIN DECEMBER 4

On December 4 at 12 noon we will have a ribbon cutting ceremony at church together with the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce prior to the launch of our new prayer outreach, which is open to everyone, including our local community. The Midday Prayer is a brief break during the day to find rest and renewal in prayer. Offered over the lunch break, people working in the area may join us. All are welcome and there is no cost. People may gather for a few moments together at **12:30PM every day** and then go about the rest of their day or if they would like, they can stay longer in prayer in the sanctuary. Please join us and help spread the word.

SOUL SEEKERS - Monday, Dec. 10, 2018 — 7:00PM

This group is designed to support and encourage our relationships with God as we face the challenges and joys together. This group is open to all...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 shelltbf@hotmail.com

BEHOLD, A SAVIOR! CANTATA **Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018 - 11AM**

Behold, A Savior! is a portrait of a promise and a portrait of the fulfillment of that promise.

Throughout this musical, Jay Rouse and Rose Aspinall skillfully weave scripture and dramatic first-hand accounts of the birth of Jesus into beloved carols and original songs. Each monologue and song will take you on a journey from the longing of Zechariah, the joy and acceptance of Mary, the courage of Joseph and the adoration of the angels and the shepherds. This cantata is about 35 minutes in length and the service will include communion.



EVANGELISM - Monday, December 17, 2018 - 3:00PM

If you would like to join the Evangelism team, please feel free to join us at our next meeting.

ALTAR GUILD - Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018 - 10:00AM

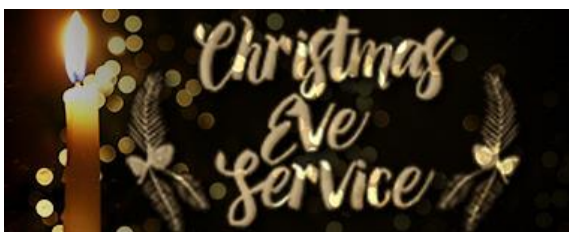
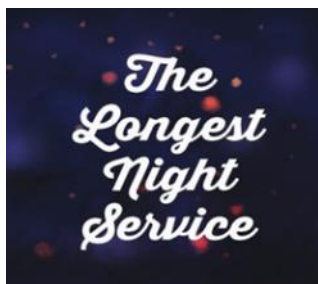
Our next meeting will be at 10am in the Library. For more info, please contact Janet DeVico at 352-598-0150. New members area always welcome.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE - Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018 - 6:00PM

Do you feel the Christmas season stresses you out, fills you with loneliness, and leaves you feeling empty?

Join us for the healing of our losses, hurts and unmet needs as we gather in prayer to hear the Hope of Christ. We celebrate and find healing in the Hope that comes in the form of a newborn baby.

Refreshments and social time after the service.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - Dec. 24, 2018

Our Christmas Eve worship services are on Monday, December 24, at 4:00PM and at 10:00PM.

The 4:00PM worship service will include the Children's Program. The 10:00PM worship service is a traditional Candlelight service with Holy Communion.

**11AM USHERS MEETING - Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018 -
10:15AM**

Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming fast. In December we have the Congregational Meeting on the 9th, and Cantata on the 16th with Christmas weekend the following week. Yes, time seems to move too fast. With that in mind, I would like to schedule an usher meeting for Sunday December 2, 2018 in the center back of the sanctuary at 10:15AM to schedule 11:00 ushering for February, March and April 2019. Easter arrives late this year, April 21st. Please review your calendars for Sundays you have commitments and cannot usher. As has been done in the past I will pass a clipboard for each month.

At the meeting, if you have any ideas on how we can improve or questions concerning our usher duties, let's discuss.

Thanks again for your help.

Tim Cotter

ALTAR FLOWERS—If you would like to purchase flowers for the altar in honor or memory of a loved one or event, please sign up in the narthex. For those people who have purchased bouquets, the Altar Guild will have them ready for you to pick up after the 11 o'clock service. **PLEASE, do not** remove flowers from the altar. Members from the Altar Guild will remove them for you.

NLC'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.

OUTREACH

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.

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The Mission Endowment Funds have two requirements:

1. Keep the principal invested.
2. Use the income for worthwhile ministries.

Last year, \$67,592.00 in Trompeter Fund income was distributed. The Endowment Committee requests that all Nativity members help us identify those ministries, charities and outreach projects that you believe deserve consideration.

Grant applications are available in the Church Office. Completed applications must be in by December 31. Please spread the word. You may contact the Church Office or any of the Endowment Committee members if you have any questions.

WORLD AIDS DAY - December 1, 2018

The ELCA is invited to join the global community on Dec. 1 to commemorate World AIDS Day. This is a day for a time of remembrance, awareness and commitment to action, especially in our calling to a strong and faithful response that's set forward in the ELCA Strategy on HIV and AIDS.

SEEDS FOR HAITI. Hurricanes have devastated the food crops and fruit trees in Haiti. The Lutheran Church in Haiti (ELH) is one of the companion churches. We want to help replant crops. Drought resistant seeds will be purchased in Haiti. The Haiti Task Force is asking all 185 FL-BA Synod congregations to help. Ten people donating \$5 equals \$50. Would you please donate? Please write your check to Nativity Lutheran Church and in the memo indicate “**Seeds for Haiti.**” If every congregation helps, we could send \$10,000 to the ELH for seeds. Together, we can make a huge difference!

GOAL MET: ELCA World Hunger’s Global Farm Challenge

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we’ve met our matching goal of \$515,000! Together, we’ve raised more than \$1 million for the agricultural work of ELCA World Hunger through the Global Farm Challenge. But the need continues. Please continue to participate and donate as we work together to create healthier families, stronger economies and a future filled with at: ELCA.org/

ANGEL TREE PARTY -
Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018 —
1PM



We will be hosting a Christmas party for children whose parents may be incarcerated or who are deemed economically disadvantaged. Last year the participation we received from the Nativity family was wonderful. The party will be on December 15th in Al Lien hall from 1-3 o'clock. We hope you can join us.

The Angel Tree will be located in the narthex. If you would like to make a donation to this ministry, please take an envelope off the tree and place it in the offering plate.

COMMUNITY LIFE

WOMEN OF NATIVITY (WON)

ANNUAL WON CHRISTMAS LUNCH—Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018—11:30AM

All women of Nativity Lutheran Church are invited to our Christmas luncheon. We have a sign up sheet in the Narthex. We will be serving pork loin, potatoes, green beans and a variety of salads. Please bring cookies to share. They will also be used throughout the Christmas season at church for different functions including the Angel Tree participants. This year, Frank DeFrancesco will be preparing the meal. All are welcome and bring your friends. Cost is \$10.00. Contact Mary McDowall at 352-503-7215 for info. See you all there!

CARDS R US - Wednesday, Dec. 5 & 12, 2018 - 12:30PM-3PM

The Cards R Us group will make cards out of your donated, used greeting cards on the first and second Wednesdays, December 5 and 12. All are welcome to join us in Al Lien Hall. Remember to shop for your cards on our kiosks in the narthex and in the Administration building hallway. For more info, contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-596-8271.

MARY JOY CIRCLE -Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018 -12:00PM

Our monthly Bible study continues on Thursday, Dec. 13, at 12:30pm in Al Lien Hall. All women of Nativity are invited to join us and we look forward to welcoming you. For more info, please contact Evelyn Lawlor at 352-835-7784.

PAINTING CLASS - Wednesday, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26,

2018 - 10AM-12 NOON. We meet every Wednesday in Al Lien Hall. For more information, contact Germaine Major at 352-686-0416 or Penny Morman at 352-888-1829.

FELLOWSHIP — PATTY FROM PATTI

Jingle bells, jingle bells, can it almost be Christmas? It doesn't seem possible, but here is what we have coming up:

Sunday, December 16th Cantata and Brunch

The Cantata, Behold A Savior, will be presented at the 11:00 service by the Nativity Choir. Following the service the Choir and Fellowship Committee invite you as our guests to a Christmas Brunch — a great way to celebrate the season before so many take off to head to family. There will be a sign up sheet on the kiosk in the narthex so that we have some idea of who will be attending.

Sunday, January 20th Stone Salad Luncheon after the 11AM Service

If you haven't attended a Stone Salad luncheon before, give it a try. Just bring one ingredient to be added to the salad buffet. The Fellowship Committee will furnish the greens, dressing and crusty bread. Please bring in your offering before you head into church.

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION-----HAMARAMA ON FEBRUARY 16th

Ham dinner and TALENT SHOW. SO---If you would like to perform, please let Donna Olsen or Patti Cotter know. It is always a fun filled night. More details to come.

The Fellowship Committee wishes you all a Blessed Christmas. Stay safe and be ready to have some fun in the New Year.

Patti Cotter

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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - Friday, Dec. 7, 2018 - 4:00PM

Libby and John Capell are hosting a Christmas celebration for Friendship Circle members at their home at 18775 Henequen Lane, Spring Hill FL 34610 (off U.S. 41, north of SR52), on Friday, December 7, 5:00PM. RSVP and coordinate your side dish to share at 817-266-4372. Also, please bring 2 dozen cookies, some for a dessert tray and the remainder for a cookie exchange. In lieu of gifts to each other, we will take up a collection to purchase a goat, piglet, or farm seeds from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. These gifts will help to grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives in any of nearly 90 countries, including the U.S. We will meet at Nativity at 4:00 to carpool.

DAYS FOR GIRLS — Thursday, Dec. 20, 2018 — 9:00AM-11AM

Days for Girls is a non-profit organization formed to help girls in developing countries stay in school. Through the Trompeter Fund and Thrivent Financial, WON (Women of Nativity) have been able to participate in this life changing mission. Please consider joining us. For more info, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

MEN'S BREAKFAST – Tuesday, Dec. 18, 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.



DINNER FOR EIGHT. . . ITS BACK FOR 2019!!!

“Dinner for Eight” a fellowship group that was last held in 2016, is being revived beginning in January 2019. This program--part of the Community Life Ministry Area--is being started by Scott and Jane Henkel. **COUPLES AND SINGLES ARE WELCOME!**

The idea behind this self-run ‘ministry’ is to have eight congregants meet 3-4 times during January to April over a dinner or a lunch or outing. This informal setting gives many members a chance to meet others in a social setting. The activities and time each group will meet will be set by the members of the group.

“We really enjoyed it when we participated in 2016”, explains Jane Henkel. “Because we were newer members in the area, we did not know many others. In the Dinner for Eight, we met many new friends in our congregation whose friendships we cherish today.”

Two people will be designated as leaders of each eight-member group. Their only task is to keep their group running during the designated timeframe.

A sign-up sheet to join will be posted on the kiosk beginning December 2nd. Groups will be randomly assigned.

Questions can be directed to Jane Henkel (651) 402-1473.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

CONFIRMATION CLASS – Sunday, Dec. 16 & 23, 2018 - 9:45AM

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

BIBLE STUDY – Sunday, Dec. 2, 16, 24 & 30 —9:45-10:45AM—Witnesses to the Resurrection

The class is co-led by Pastor Giuseppe and Deacon Clyde Rosten and will explore the **Witnessing of the Early Church** following the Resurrection of Jesus. This class is a very basic exploration of the Christian Scriptures' references to the Church's self-awareness of being a light to the world. Please, bring your own Bible. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Giuseppe.

Note: No Bible Study on Sunday, Dec. 9.

Youth Group

HELPING HANDS - Do you have a light-duty job around your home that you would need some helping hands? Your Nativity Youth Group will get together once a month to help you move things, change light bulbs, retrieve and setup decorations, light yard work and weeding, wash windows and any small, unskilled job you have needed some help with. Please find the helping hands box in the Narthex, complete the form and place in the box. We will contact you and plan to get together once a month to complete these jobs.

NEEDED — YOUTH GROUP ADULT HELPERS

We know many people within the congregation have expressed wanting to help with the youth group. We would like to compile a list of all of you so we may contact you. We have many events scheduled that we need extra people to help. Some of those events are Cook4Kids, 2nd Sunday after 2nd service, outdoor adventures, flocking, Helping Hands and many others. Please contact Lorrie DeFrancesco at (727) 667-7293 or email ljdefran2323@gmail.com to have some fun with the youth.

MISCELLANEOUS

PASTOR GIUSEPPE RADIO INTERVIEW

Tune in to radio station WWJB 1450 AM, 103.9 AM and **92.3 FM** located at 55 W. Fort Dade Ave., Brooksville on Monday, December 17, at 12 Noon as Pr. Giuseppe will be interviewed for approximately 15 minutes. He will take about our ministry at Nativity on "*Business Edge*," a show produced with the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce. This live show is hosted by Hernando Chamber of Commerce staff and diplomats.

CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS DUE

All ministry teams and committees are asked to turn in an annual report to the church office by December 15. The report should include a look back at the accomplishments of the past year as well as look forward to the new year of ministry.

COUNTERS NEEDED

Every week on Monday donations are counted by a group of volunteers who sort envelopes into numerical order, open them, indicate the amounts and run an adding machine tape to prove each group of envelopes. The group meets at 8:45 each week and it takes 1-1.5 hours of time. If you are interested in helping us out, please see or call Ernie Horeis at 352-666-7584.

HELP

With so many of our members being temporarily (after surgeries and medical procedures) or permanently housebound more people are needed to bring them Holy Communion. If God is calling you for this important ministry, please contact Pastor Giuseppe. A short training is available.

THANK YOU!

November 9, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$90.00 in support of Luther Springs. Please pass on our appreciation to the rest of Nativity Lutheran Church for your financial support. The faith of thousands of children, youth, adults and families is built and fortified through the power of sharing in the Christ-centered camp communities. Every child who requests help will receive financial assistance, thanks to the gifts of many congregations.

Thank you and God bless all the members of your congregation.

Sincerely in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. John (Jan) Setzler

SAVE THE DATE!

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019 —
9:45AM**

This important meeting will take place in Winemiller Hall. The NLC Council would appreciate it if you can plan to attend as several important matters of business will be discussed.

THANKOFFERING SERVICE - Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019

Women of Nativity (WON) will decorate the church with all the quilts they have made this past year. The women host the entire worship service and collect your ThankOfferings which go to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide expression of Women of the ELCA. The quilts are sent to Lutheran World Relief who then distribute them around the world.

REMINDERS

OFFICE HOURS - Monday through Friday, 9AM-2PM

WE WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU

We understand that not everybody is online and receives the church information through emails, Facebook, or our web-based calendar. If you know of anyone that has not been able to attend church for some time you may be the only link between them and Nativity. We would appreciate it if you would keep them included in the happenings at Nativity so that they may not miss out on activities or schedule changes. In addition, please let us know as well so that we can work to keep them in the loop about things at NLC. In addition, should you have a change in your address, phone number and/or email address, please let the office know. You can also include that info on the white communion cards. .

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.

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

NLC CALENDAR — You can view it on the website, www.nlcww.org. If you do not have access to the website please let us know and we can arrange for you to receive a printed copy. In addition, on the website you can submit a request to schedule a meeting. We have many ministries scheduling meetings including non-NLC groups. If you need to reserve a room, please make sure you submit your request to the office. Submissions can be made using a form that can be obtained in the office, or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com or via the form on the website. This will help resolve any conflicts that may arise.

NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY!

No Purchase Commitment

Just have your picture taken, choose the picture you want in the directory and leave. Of course, if you want to order pictures you can...but there will be **NO** pressure to do so. Each photo group will receive a free 8X10 picture and a Nativity pictorial directory.

Friends & Non Members welcomed & encouraged to participate



Photography Dates & Times:

Jan 28 Mon. 12 - 7pm
Jan 29 & 30 Tue. & Wed. 10am - 5 pm
Jan 31 Thurs. 1pm - 8pm
Feb 1 & 2 Fri. & Sat. 10am - 5pm

Are you unavailable during these dates?
Contact Art or Diane.

Pets
Welcome



Sign Up in the Narthex

Sundays:

Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27
8:00a.m. - 12:15p.m.

Contact : Art or Diane Alt

352-596-1585



Do You Know the Names of the people sitting around you in Church?

Help us build the tool that will put names with faces.

This is **IMPORTANT** to our congregation

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.

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 be with.

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 sometimes of more value than finding answers.

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 office, position, possession, education, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability, or other distinctions.

December Birthdays

Ruth Carlson	12/1
Terri Breida	12/2
Will Schantl	12/3
John Ahlquist	12/4
Lyn Derenski	12/4
Natalie Goff	12/4
Asta Lundh	12/5
Johnny Mullins	12/5
Brenda Mullins	12/5
Allison Sannuto	12/5
Karen Ruzicka	12/7
Dan Derenski	12/8
Scott Henkel	12/8
Crystal Murchardt	12/9
Ann Kopp	12/9
Nancy Siegert	12/9
Sara Moore	12/9
Suzanne Chelf	12/12
Roy Hancock	12/12
Scott Hopkins	12/15



Charlotte Hamm	12/15
Bernice Sheehan	12/15
Alfred Korndorfer	12/16
Janet DeVico	12/21
Karen Napoli	12/23
David Conti	12/24
Scott LaFranca	12/24
Jack Page	12/27
Norma Diedrich	12/30

December Anniversaries

Gil & Joan Herr	12/21
Beury & Ellie Simons	12/21
Zell & JoAnne Boggus	12/22
Charles & Sue Deeg II	12/23
Michael & Janet Jones	12/26
John & Libby Capell	12/27
Ernest & Nelly Velez	12/31

