



# Happenings at NLC

February 2019

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

***Saturday, February 16, 2019 - 5PM***

***HAMARAMA***



***Sunday, February 17, 2019***

***8:30AM & 11AM Services***

***Please join us as we welcome***

***Pr. Levinson from Haiti***

## Church Events

February 16 – Hamarama  
February 17– Pr. Levinson from Haiti  
preaching at both services  
February 18 – Council Meeting

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



## *LETTER FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT*

I find it hard to believe that when you read this, we will have made it through the month of January 2019, and we will be starting our second month of this year. Sometimes it seems that the minutes drag on and other times it seems that time just flies by quickly. For me, it seems like it was only a day or so ago that I was raising a glass of champagne with friends to toast the arrival of a new year.

As we start this new year at Nativity Lutheran Church, the Council and some of our church leaders are planning to gather at the beginning of February to think about where we are as a church and where we would like to see our church in the future. We are not planning to make some grand new year resolutions that maybe we will keep. Rather our goal will be to examine Nativity Lutheran's mission statement - what do those words mean that we say every Sunday morning? You remember! The Assisting Minister challenges us by saying: "Nativity Lutheran Church: What is our Mission?" And we all respond: "With the birth of Jesus in our hearts, we carry light and love to the world."

What do we really mean when we say that? Are they just nice words or do they really mean something to us? How do we carry light and love to the world? I want to challenge you to think about our mission statement and our values statement. Do you know what you are saying? Do you find ways to carry light and love to the world each day, each week? What can our church be doing differently to ensure that we live up to our mission statement? Does our values statement really reflect our church values? Do we really welcome all people or do we only welcome those who look like us and think like us?

I'm not going to answer these questions in these paragraphs. However, I do want to challenge you to think about them. If you have ideas about how to make the mission statement real and vibrant in our community, please share your ideas with the Pastor, a Council member, or another church leader that you know. If you have ideas about how to make our church an exciting and wonderful place to worship and serve the Lord, share them.

We are planning to establish some goals that move Nativity Lutheran Church forward as we work together to share the love of Jesus Christ with each other, with our neighbors and the world. During the coming year, I hope all of us learn just a little more about how we can contribute to the overall movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Whether we share the love of God by sending cards to visitors or those with birthdays and anniversaries, lead a church committee, sing in the choir, act as an usher or greeter, read scripture, sew quilts, knit prayer shawls, or sit quietly and pray, may we each find a way to carry light and love to the world. Let's work together to make our church the place that people want to be on Sunday mornings and throughout the week.

Ed Lewis

# SPIRITUAL LIFE

## From Pastor Giuseppe:

During one of my sermons in November I asked the congregation to write down on a pew card words of Scripture that inspire and sustain you. This is what you wrote:

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son so that all who believe in him shall have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*

*He cried.*

*Forgive my unfaithfulness.*

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?*

*My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1-2)*

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:34-35)*

*I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)*

*The Lord's Prayer.*

*For God all things are possible. (Mark 10:27)*

*Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God. (Psalm 146:5)*

*For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. (1 Timothy 4:10)*

*The Lord is my Shepherd... (Psalm 23)*

*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 22:37-39)

*Faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.* (1 Corinthians 13:13)

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*  
(Psalm 46:1)

*O send out your light and your truth;  
let them lead me;  
let them bring me to your holy hill  
and to your dwelling.* (Psalm 43:3)

*Lord, come to my assistance.*

*O my God, make haste to help me!* (Psalm 71:12)

*Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!* (Psalm 27:14)

*Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times  
in all ways. The Lord be with all of you.* (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

*Be still, and know that I am God!* (Psalm 46:10)

*I can do all things through him who strengthens me.* (Philippians 4:13)

*Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must  
the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may  
have eternal life.* (John 3:15)

*Follow me.* (Matthew 4:19)

## **ALTAR GULD – February 20, 2019 – 10:00AM**

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). If you have any questions you would like answered before that please, call **Janet DeVico at 352-597-0150.**

## **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2019 - 8:30 & 11AM SERVICES**

Pr. Joseph Livenson is the President of the Lutheran Church of Haiti of which the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the ELCA is a companion church. Pr. Livenson will be our guest at the Hamarama on Saturday, February 16 and will preach at our two services on Sunday, the 17th. We invite you to come and hear what God is doing in, with and through the Church of Haiti.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE — Wednesday, March 6, 2019—6:30PM**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and marks a period of intentional prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and lasts about six weeks until Easter. Ash Wednesday



derives its name from the ancient Jewish practice of placing ashes on one's head or to sit in ashes to signify repentance (for ex. Esther 4; Job 42; Jer 6). Lutherans and other Christians come to a special service on Ash Wednesday to receive ashes on their foreheads as a sign of repentance and hear the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" proclaimed to them. The ashes may be prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations.

## **MIDDAY PRAYER - Weekdays at 12:30PM**

The Midday Prayer is a brief break during the day to find rest and renewal in prayer. All are welcome. 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, Feb. 11, 2019 — 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 shelltbfb@hotmail.com

**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 — A NEW GENERATION

A New Generation is a non-profit pregnancy medical clinic serving women and men in Hernando County. All services are free and confidential. Services include pregnancy tests, limited ultrasound exams for pregnancy viability, parenting, anger management, men's program, relationship counseling, pre-marital and marital counseling, post abortion recovery and more. A parenting mentor program "Earn While You Learn" gives parents an opportunity to earn "Mommy Money" to spend in the "Baby Boutique". The Baby Boutique offers infant to toddler clothing, diapers, wipes, blankets, car seats and more.

Beginning Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, please pick up a baby bottle in the Narthex and return the bottle by February 24<sup>th</sup> with a donation. Your support will help complement the programs in place as A New Generation continues to focus on the emotional, social and spiritual needs of their clients.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

**BIBLE STUDY – Sunday, Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2019 —  
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.



**CONFIRMATION CLASS — Sunday, Feb. 10 & 24, 2019  
at 9:45am.**



**BIBLE STUDY – Wednesdays Feb. 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2019  
—7:30PM**

**“FACING TROUBLES IN THE CHURCH”: A STUDY IN 1  
CORINTHIANS**

Beginning on January 16 and continuing each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. in Winemiller Hall, the Rev. Dr. Carlan Helgeson will be leading a Bible Study on Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthian Christians. Come, grow in your understanding of the Scriptures and your faith as we look together at how the first-century church faced its crises and disagreements. No previous experience in Bible study is needed. Invite your friends and neighbors, too! All are welcome.



**Inquirers and New Members Class—Sunday, Feb. 24,  
2019—12:45PM**

The class is designed with a certain group of people in mind: seekers who have not grown up in the Church or who for one reason or another have been away from the Church for some time. People coming from other denominations will also find the content of the class informative. Transferring Lutherans are encouraged to take the class just to be aware of the many ministries available at Nativity, become informed about our policies and procedures and consider where they are called to serve. Our next class will be Sunday, February 24 at 12:45 pm in Al Lien Hall. Please, indicate your interest by writing a message for Pr. Mattei in the back of a pew card or call the office at 352-597-1456.

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

# COMMUNITY LIFE

## WOMEN OF NATIVITY (WON)

**CARDS R US - Wednesday, Feb. 6 & 13 2019 -  12:30PM-3PM**

Pick out your valentines on the kiosks in the Narthex and in the Admin Building hallway! You can help provide someone in need with a Happy Valentine's Day by doing so. Cards R Us will be making cards from your used greeting cards on the first and second Wednesdays of February, the 6th and 13th, in Al Lien Hall, from 12:30-3:00. We can always use your help, so come and get a little creative with us.

**PAINTING CLASS - Wednesday, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2019 - 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.

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - Friday, Feb. 8, 2019—4:30PM**

Friendship Circle will take in Friday Night Live on February 8 at the Bandshell in downtown Brooksville. Please bring lawn chairs, which we'll set out to hold our spots, and then walk to a restaurant for devotions and dinner. Entertainment from the area will be provided by Brooksville businesses and is free. The Bandshell is on Fort Dade Avenue, next to the Main Branch Library. We will meet at Nativity at 4:30 to carpool. Call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918 for information.

**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 Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367 with any questions.

**MARY JOY CIRCLE—Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019 -12:00PM**

Our monthly Bible study continues on Thursday, January 10, 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.

**DAYS FOR GIRLS — Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019 —  
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.

**WOMEN OF NATIVITY BOARD MEETING - Tuesday,  
April 9, 2019 - 10AM-12PM in the library. Please save  
the date!**

**SARAH CIRCLE**, the Prayer Shawl Ministry of NLC, is in need of new leadership! Responsibilities of the administrator of the group include scheduling the times the group meets, helping to keep track of shawl distribution, buying yarn, and helping to publicize the availability of shawls. The leader also attends the Nativity Women of Nativity board meetings every 3 months. If you are interested in helping this ministry to continue, please contact Doreen Davis, president of the Women of Nativity or the church office. Thank you!

**Needed:** We are looking for people to help with the soup and sandwich Lenten Suppers. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Lilo Horeis at 352-666-7584 or Evelyn Galli at 352-684-2261.

# FELLOWSHIP — PATTERN FROM PATTI

HEAR YE—HEAR YE---HEAR YE

Saturday February 16th HAMARAMA 5:00PM

Yes, it is the year we offer Hamarama again, in case you have never attended here is the scoop. It starts at 5:00 and you will enjoy a ham dinner, potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, ice cream sundae, and beverage. After this yummy dinner, kick back and enjoy the talent show presented by our Nativity family. It is always a fun evening. The tickets will go on



sale on January 27th, and be \$10.00 for adults and \$3.00 for kids. We can seat 160. We still have a few spots open for acts in the show. If you want to entertain, we need to know by February 2nd, you can tell Donna or me. We love to encourage our kids to get on stage. Hope to see ya there.

March activity still in the works, details to follow.

April will be our final event of our season and a Mystery Dinner.

***Patti Cotter***

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST – Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019 – 8:30AM**

We have a new place where we will be meeting. Please join us at **My Nanny's Restaurant**, 5323 Commercial Way, Spring Hill, for fellowship and breakfast. For more info on this group, please call Jim Christensen at 352-683-9141.



## **HELP WANTED**

**GARDEN HELP WANTED!** We need your help to maintain the gardens at the entrance of the administration building. The garden serves as a bright spot for the church and as a welcome to all. Only light weeding, watering and cleaning of bird baths is needed. A sign up sheet is on the kiosk in the narthex. Please sign up if you would be willing to help. Any questions, contact Linda Wagner at 352-799-8577 or JoAnne Berg at 352-428-0156.



**COUNTERS NEEDED —** We are looking for anyone who is good with numbers and is willing to volunteer their services once a month as Head Counter. You will be responsible for a group who volunteers and prove the donations received from the Congregation. Training provided. Job takes about 1.5-2 hours to complete. For more information, please call Ernie Horeis at 352-666-7584.

# MISCELLANEOUS

## **SATURDAY, March 2, 2019 — LIFE LINE SCREENING**

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on March 2. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (all five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete).

**There are three ways to register for this event, please visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle), call 1-888-653-6441 or text the word circle to 797979.**

## Preparations on the day of your screening

### All ultrasound and heart rhythm screenings:

- Wear a short sleeved shirt that is open at the collar – no turtlenecks
- Wear a comfortable two-piece outfit consisting of loose clothing
- Do not wear pantyhose

### Additional preparations:

#### Abdominal aortic aneurysm

- Fast for 4 hours prior to your screening.
- Make sure the meal you eat 4 hours prior to your screening is a light one (less than 1/2 of what you normally eat of non-gassy food).
- If you are thirsty during your fasting period, you may have 1/2 cup of coffee or tea and a moderate amount of water.
- If you take medication, take it as prescribed.
- If you are diabetic and are not comfortable fasting for 4 hours, limit yourself to a "diabetic meal" (piece of toast, 1 cup of any juice and 1/2 cup coffee or tea). If you are in doubt, please follow your diabetic care plan.

#### Complete lipid panel (cholesterol)

- Fast for 8 hours prior to your screening.

#### Atrial fibrillation (stroke)

- Do not wear pantyhose.
- Do not wear a watch.
- Keep your cell phone turned off.
- Do not wear lotion or oil.

#### Glucose (type 2 diabetes)

- Fast for 8 hours prior to your screening.



Friends and Family Savings – Tell a friend we will be in their area soon.

11-5169

**\$10 Off**

Friends & Family  
Savings Coupon



Call to register at  
1-888-653-6450

**\$10 Off**

Friends & Family  
Savings Coupon



Call to register at  
1-888-653-6450

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Friends & Family  
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## 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.

**NEWSLETTER** — If you would like to have something included in the **March** 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 **February 15**.

**NLC CALENDAR** — You can view it on the website, [www.nlcww.org](http://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.



## **CPR Training**

We are looking to offer CPR Training between February and March 2019 and we are trying to get an idea of how many people would be interested in participating. If you are interested, please put your name on the sheet on the kiosk in the narthex.



## **COMMUNION MINISTRY HELP NEEDED**

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.

## **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.

## **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 being 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.

# February Birthdays

Justin Maves	2/1
Iris Brunner	2/2
Ivette Sanchez	2/6
Charles WIngrove	2/6
Roger Wendrzycki	2/7
Simone Mattei	2/9
Margret Ahlquist	2/11
Lillian Joyt	2/15
Gerald Flom	2/15
Beverly Houdek	2/15
Joseph Rogers	2/15
Arthur Diedrich	2/16
Valerie Mahon	2/16
Zell Boggus	2/17
Bette Kosatko	2/17
Leighan Hoyt	2/17
Don Hoy	2/19
Doreen Davis	2/19
Galina Maras-Kesteloot	2/19
Patrick Gould	2/22
Georgeann Scheidter	2/22
Debra LaFranca	2/23
Lynne Merritt	2/24
James Runyan	2/24
Robert Sanders	2/24



Dieter Steffens	2/24
Alyssa Oliver	2/25
Darlene Gould	2/26
Carol White	2/26
Philip Wolfe	2/26
Susan Degg II	2/27
Lorraine Meyer	2/27
Matthew Breida	2/28
Lilo Horeis	2/28

# February Anniversaries

Lorrie & Frank DeFrancesco	2/11
Phyllis & Ted Simpson	2/16
Carol & Richard Fleschner	2/17
Linda & Brian Wagner	2/26

