



# Happenings at NLC

January 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

**Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 13, 2019**  
**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**

January 13 – Congregational Meeting

January 18-25 – Week of Prayer for  
Christian Unity

January 20 – Stone Salad Lunch after  
11am service

January 23 - Prayer for Christian Unity  
service

January 27–ThankOffering Service

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.



## *FROM OUR OUTGOING COUNCIL PRESIDENT*

Whenever we welcome a New Year, many people make resolutions which are broken by St. Valentine's Day. In making a resolution, one should have a mindset and be committed to execute. Next, they dig deep into their soul to build the courage it takes, set a time frame they can adhere to, having done these, stay the course. Sometimes failing is a result of not planning carefully or making a serious commitment, other times we let outside forces hinder us from achieving our goal.



Our Pastor, Church Council, and leaders of the many organizations are setting goals to continue meeting the spiritual and outreach demands of members of our community. There is also a program being planned to greet the newcomers relocating this community in the future, as anticipated by the County administrators and business community.

During my just completed term on council, and more so since taking up residence in the community, I have seen many improvements in our church community and the Hernando County community. We must not dwell on our laurels and let the opportunity for growth slip away. To be prepared, is dependent on how we take care of every aspect of our business which needs our time, talents, and resources. I am happy to say that with the assistance of the finance committee and astute personnel taking care of these gifts, Nativity has been greatly rewarded with the benefits of your valuable contributions which are carefully monitored and utilized with the greatest of care.

As we implement these programs, there will be an extra need of funding which will benefit our church community and will be an investment in our church. Your participation is greatly appreciated, even though you have made your pledge, whatever is possible and does not make an impact on your pledge will be a welcomed gift. Let's hope and pray we can make this one of your resolutions for this year as we continue the journey.

Congratulations to our new Executive Committee and Council, thanks to our outgoing members for their service, thanks to you for so generously supporting our Church. Blessings in this New Year.

*Al Wright*

## *FROM OUR INCOMING COUNCIL PRESIDENT*

As the new year begins, I see myself accepting a new role at Nativity Lutheran Church. I am pleased to be the new president of the Congregation Council for 2019. As such, I look forward to working with the other council members as we endeavor to administer the business of the church. I look forward to discovering new opportunities and challenges that will allow Nativity Lutheran to move forward and to grow under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Going into this new year, I ask that you please pray regularly for our council. Nativity Lutheran is blessed to have a dedicated group of people who desire to make a difference in the life of our church. As you pray, remember Ed Lewis (president), Dan Derenski (vice-president), Evelyn Galli (treasurer), Jane Henkel (financial secretary), Karin Glessner (secretary), Jack Chase, Janet Jones, Buddy Kristoferson, and Susan Lee. I am grateful for each of these individuals that have agreed to serve on council during the year. I am especially pleased that Jane Henkel has agreed to remain on the council and that Karin and Jack are joining our group for the first time. I would be remiss if I didn't say a big thank you to Al Wright and Jack Page for their faithful service over the past years and for their leadership on the Executive Team.

This past year, the council voted to hold a retreat for the new council and many leaders from various committees in February 2019. Plans are in place and I am looking forward to a time that this group can assemble to share some spiritual time, to become educated about the council and some new procedures, and to prepare some short-, mid-, and long-term goals. In the future, I will be sharing some of the ideas that we gather at the retreat and try to keep you apprised of the progress toward meeting the goals we set for ourselves.

May God continue to bless Nativity Lutheran Church, and may we see the power of the Holy Spirit move among us as we grow in love and in service to one another and the world around us.

*Ed Lewis*

# SPIRITUAL LIFE

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

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, Jan. 14, 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 GUILD - Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019 - 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.

## **EVANGELISM TEAM RETREAT—Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019—9:00AM**

This is a brainstorming and planning session to expand NLC's spiritual, educational and promotional presence in the community.

## **EVANGELISM - Monday, Jan. 21, 2019 - 3:00PM**

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

**PRAYER SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY —  
Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019 - 5:45PM**

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services.

The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated between January 18-25, between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul. In the southern hemisphere, where January is a vacation time, churches often find other days to celebrate it, for example around Pentecost, which is also a symbolic date for unity.

The theme for the week of prayer in 2019, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue..." is inspired by Deuteronomy 16:18-20.

Please join us on Wednesday, January 23 for this special Prayer Service for Christian Unity.

**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.



**THANKOFFERING SERVICE – Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019 –  
8:30AM & 11:00AM**

On January 27, the Women of Nativity (WON) will be leading a ThankOffering Service. This special service includes the blessing of quilts made by Crafty Ladies that are given to those in need all over the world as well as individuals at Nativity and in Hernando County; prayer shawls, made by Sarah Circle, are given to those in need; donated stuffed toys are distributed by fire and police to children in stressful situations. A special offering is collected at this service to help support Women of the ELCA churchwide efforts. Please join us for this special service.

WON will hold their annual meeting immediately following the 11:00 service in Winemiller Hall. A luncheon will be provided. Spouses are invited to enjoy the luncheon with us.

**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 — THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

To all Thrivent Benefit Members, you may be eligible to apply for 2 action team projects (yearly). Applications must be submitted using a computer. This is where Tim Cotter (352-797-9682) and Ernie Horeis (352-666-7584) can help by using the computer at Nativity and your Thrivent Member ID number.

Here are some sample projects you may choose from:

- Food Pantry (canned goods, animal food)
- Crafty Ladies (material/batting/needles/thread)
- Weekend Blessings (canned goods)
- Girl Scouts (cookies for military)
- Luther League Youth (convention)
- Your own idea for a project

Once your project is approved, you will receive an envelope with seed money which is a \$250.00 credit card (FREE) to be utilized for starting your project. PLEASE take advantage of this opportunity and get involved to make a difference in peoples' lives.

## THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, there is a good change you can get Thrivent Choice Dollars allocated every year for you to donate to a charity of your choice. This is charitable grant money Thrivent Financial puts aside on your behalf based on the monies you have invested or paid into Thrivent Financial. Many people are unaware of these monies that exist for them. Are you one of them? If you are not sure, contract Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 or check online at [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com). You have until March 31, 2019 to get these dollars allocated.

# **COMMUNITY LIFE**

## **WOMEN OF NATIVITY (WON)**

### **DELEGATE REPORT FROM THE GATHERING AT LAKE YALE FOR WOMEN OF THE FL-BA SYNOD**

“All About Love” was the theme for this gathering. 5 women from Nativity attended: Jean Drach, Lilo Horeis, Cam Martin, Rosie Rosten and Mary McDowall. Gulf Coast Conference helped with the credentials committee. The meeting was called to order on Friday at 4pm. We had the election of Vice President, Treasurer, 4 Board Members and 5 Women to the Triennial Convention in 2020 in Phoenix. Mae Haines from Golf Coast Conference was one of the women elected. Sister Michelle Collins was there to do Bible study. We had several worship experiences. One was a special tribute to veterans. Rev. Victoria Hamilton was the Chaplain. Mary Weeks was in charge of the youth that attended. There was a bookstore for our pleasure and a hospitality room for our enjoyment. On Saturday evening we had a “Decades of Love” for all. Many activities were there for us to partake in. Offerings were taken for Golden Rainbow Ranch; for churchwide use; for hurricane victims. For the next 2 years our Love Offering will go to a women and children’s ministry in Niceville, FL. What a great way to spend a weekend with Christian women from our Synod.

Things to put on your calendar:

January 27 will be the ThankOffering Service and Women of Nativity (WON) Annual Meeting and Potluck

March 16 is the Gulf Coast Conference meeting at St. Timothy in Tarpon City



## **WOMEN OF NATIVITY CHRISTMAS PARTY**

On December 1, Women of Nativity began Christmas joy in Winemiller Hall. We enjoyed a delicious luncheon prepared by Lorrie and Frank DeFrancesco and



spirited entertainment was provided by Hernando Harmonizers. Christmas. Thank you to all who helped make it a wonderful success.

## **CARDS R US - Wednesday, Jan. 2 & 9, 2019 - 12:30PM-3PM**

Cards R Us will kick off a productive 2019 with a sparkling apple juice toast at 12:30 on Wednesday, January 2, in Al Lien Hall. Our second January card-making day will be January 9--same time, same place. We craft greeting cards from your used, donated cards and offer them for a suggested donation of 75 cents. One hundred percent of the profit from your donations will be turned over to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help those with one-time emergencies. If you'd like to give this a try, please join us.

## **MARY JOY CIRCLE—Thursday, Jan. 10, 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.

## **FELLOWSHIP – PATTERN FROM PATTI**

We hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year, but now that everyone is back let's party.

### **Sunday, January 20th after 2nd service STONE SALAD**

You say what is Stone Salad? It is a casual luncheon where we furnish the greens, crusty bread. and beverage and participants can bring anything they care to for the salad buffet. Please have it prepared and drop it off before you go into the service. A salad, how healthy can we get for the New Year? If you will be joining us, please sign up on the kiosk in the Narthex.

### **Saturday, February 16th, 5:00PM HAMARAMA**

Hamarama is an event we offer every other year, this is the year. It is a ham dinner including ham, potatoes, green beans, salad and sundaes. Beside the yummy food we present a talent show of the many talented people of our Nativity Family.

Sooooooooo, if you have a talent you can share, either tell me or Donna and you can be a star. Tickets will be \$10.00 for adults and \$3.00 for kids. Speaking of kids, we welcome their acts a well. Tickets will go on sale on January 27th and we can handle 160 people.

The Fellowship committee appreciates your participation and gracious thanks. I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful committee as they always step up with a smile and great enthusiasm. Things we are working on are a Mystery dinner and whatever???.

***Patti Cotter***

**PAINTING CLASS - Wednesday, Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 20, 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.

**SARAH CIRCLE - Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019 - 6:30PM**

If you like to knit or crochet - or you would like to learn - please join us. We can provide you will all the necessary materials (or you may use your own). Prayer shawls are a tactile way of saying a prayer for someone in need. Call or email Kim Mehan with questions 727-207-0071 or [kmehan57@gmail.com](mailto:kmehan57@gmail.com).

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019 - 10:00AM**

Friendship Circle will travel to St. Petersburg on Saturday, January 12, to visit The James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art, 150 Central Avenue 33701. This museum transports visitors through the rich, diverse heritage of the American West. For a group reservation of 10 or more, admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for Seniors 65+. Regular admission is \$20. We will meet at Nativity at 10:00am to carpool; please help out your driver to cover the gas, toll and \$1/hour parking fee. Parking is available in the city garage located above the museum; the entrance is at the back of the museum building at 101 1st Avenue South. The Canyon Cafe, located inside the museum, will host us for lunch or brunch--your choice. At 2:00, a docent will lead a 45-minute highlights tour. Call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918 to reserve a spot on this Friendship field trip.

**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.

**DAYS FOR GIRLS — Thursday, Jan. 17, 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.

**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 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 is posted on the kiosk in the Narthex. Groups will be randomly assigned. Questions can be directed to Jane Henkel (651) 402-1473.

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST – Tuesday, Jan. 15, 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.



## **NATIVITY CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT -- Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019– 2:00PM**

The next edition of the Nativity Cup Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday January 20, 2019 at Hernando Oaks Golf Club at 2:00PM. Hernando Oaks is just south of Brooksville on Route 41. We will have a scramble format and play 9 holes. A luncheon will be available at the club immediately following. We need people to sign up as soon as possible so we can give the club a number of the participants.



Sign up will be on the sheet on the kiosk in the narthex. For any further information please contact Jim Runyan at 609-385-6679 or see me in the choir.

We look forward to seeing all of you for a great tournament.

***Jim Runyan***

# **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)**

**BIBLE STUDY – Sunday, January 6, 20, 27, 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.

*Note: There will be no Bible Study on Sunday, Jan. 13.*

**BIBLE STUDY – Wednesdays beginning Jan. 16, 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.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS – Sunday, Jan. 20 & 27, 2019 - 9:45AM**

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

# 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](mailto:ljdefran2323@gmail.com) to have some fun with the youth.

# MISCELLANEOUS

## CPR Training

We are looking to offer CPR Training between January 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.



## 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.



## **NOTICE**

Last year one of our members left a private donation (THANK YOU!) to promote projects to increase our Congregation's membership. Here are some of the projects that these funds were used for:

Gift bags for visitors

Radio broadcast of Sunday Service

Nativity's brochure handed out at the Chamber of  
Commerce Welcome Table

There are still funds available to be used, so if you have an idea, please discuss it with Pastor Mattei.

## **HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT**

If you are interested in hosting an exchange student, please contact Gretchen Samter, Local Coordinator, at 352-234-1500 for more information. Students are between the ages of 15-18, they study at a local school for one year, have good English skills, and have spending money and insurance.

## **ENVELOPES FOR 2019**

If you have not yet picked up your box of envelopes for next year, please check your mailbox in Winemiller Hall.

## 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 **February** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) and also to Evelyn Galli via email to [evgalli@bcany.com](mailto:evgalli@bcany.com) by **Jan. 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](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) or via the form on the website. This will help resolve any conflicts that may arise.

# THANK YOU!

Thank You to all the Head Counters and Data Entry People for your dedication counting and entering all the donations from members and visitors last year. Thank you for using your time and talent for looking up numbers (green pew envelopes), opening them, putting them in numerical order and proving to the dollar amount for each category, and for the Head Counters going to the bank and making a deposit.

Many Thanks,

*Jean Drach and Ernie Horeis*

Lorrie and Frank,

I heard of the great success of the Thanksgiving meal with so many people served. You worked hard and helped many to have a special meal. I bet they felt honored and grateful. And I bet you got a great kick out of it yourselves. Thank you so very much. You truly enrich our congregation with your generosity, kindness, and smiles.

*Pastor Giuseppe*

**From Lorrie:** Thank you!! Just did not want anyone to feel lonely - 16 meals...6 delivered, 6 picked up and 4 ate at church. Few leftovers were taken by the people helping out. It was great fun delivering meals and smiles.

# SAVE THE DATE!

## **SATURDAY, February 16, 2019 — 5PM HAMARAMA**

Hamarama is an event Fellowship offers every other year, this is the year. It is a ham dinner including ham, potatoes, green beans, salad and sundaes. Beside the yummy food they present a talent show of the many talented people of our Nativity Family. See page 10 for more details.

## **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 February 24. 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.**

# 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.

## January Birthdays

Louise Luffsey	1/1
Henry Wittschieben	1/1
Elaine Malone	1/2
Viola Broda	1/4
Nancy Crowe	1/5
Kathleen O'Brien	1/5
Jennifer Johnson	1/6
Robert McDowall	1/7
Stephanie Mattei	1/10
Pam Rogers	1/13
Ahmec Torres	1/13
Rebecca Hanneman	1/15
Michelle Mehan-Conklin	1/15
Robyn Rahn	1/15
Beth Sannuto	1/17
Theresa Halgren	1/18
Margret Steffens	1/18
James Ward	1/18
JoAnne Berg	1/19
Louise Weyen	1/21
Vivian Deon	1/23
Pauline Dougan	1/23
Marilyn Schneider	1/23
Phillip Schroeder	1/24
Josiah Breida	1/25
Cynthia Rogers	1/26
Ruth Goodwin	1/29
Don Eckert	1/30
Margaret Spina	1/31



## January Anniversaries

Joyce & Conrad Colombo	1/28
Susan & Don Eckert	1/28

