



April 2019
Quarterly Magazine
2nd Issue

The Communicator

Season of Love, not just Lent

by Deacon Ruth Ann Hoy

February 14th may be a day to celebrate romantic love, but Lent is a season during which we celebrate Jesus' love.

During Epiphany, we learned about Jesus' teaching through parables and miracles. The 40 days that He spent in the desert prior to His triumphant entry into Jerusalem were spent in prayer, meditation and arguments with Satan.

From the day that He was conceived to the day that He hung on the cross, He consistently taught us love. He showed us love and worked in loving ways, serving His Father and His chosen people. The Bible is full of verses pertaining to love - "... love thy neighbor as thyself" (Leviticus 19:18), "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love"

(1 Corinthians 13:13) and "...to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to keep his commandments, and to hold fast to him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul." (Joshua 22:5).

We sing of His love all year long, but the songs we sing during Lent are especially poignant and full of gratitude for Jesus' love.

He gave up His life as a sign of His love for us no matter the color of our skin, the language we speak, the people we live with, and the people who need our help. As Paul said:

"Let all that you do be done in love."
1 Corinthians 16:14

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 & 11:00 AM

Adult Forum & Children's Sunday School

9:45 to 10:45 AM



Pastor Mattei

PASTOR'S PASSION



I don't know about you but I don't like conflict. I get anxious, stressed out and depressed when I experience tension in my relationships. My tendency is to be accommodating and avoid conflict. I want to please and contribute to people's happiness. My desire is to be able to work out conflicts by making good use of listening skills, but way too often I realize I freeze up when conflict manifests itself, especially with loved ones. I realize that is one of the emotional responses to conflict: fight, flight or freeze. But Jesus invites us to consider a fourth possibility: to be as merciful as the Father (Luke 6:36). Mercy, one of God's primary qualities (Exodus 34:6-7), is releasing people from what we think they deserve. Certainly, the initial shock of the confrontation needs to be overcome skillfully with breathing and a non-judgmental mind (Luke 6:37). Breathing relaxes our primitive reptilian brain which instructs

us to play dead, strike back or leave the scene. It buys us time and we are able to relax muscles (in our chest, jaw, neck and shoulders) and to redirect the oxygen back into the brain. Once relaxed, we are less prone to react and more able to choose our response. We are thus empowered to give the most appropriate attention to the unpleasant issue. How we show up tells much about ourselves and our values. This is when we have a chance to be merciful and show the compassion of our Teacher. But his message of offering the other cheek may be misunderstood: all Jesus is saying is to resist evil with goodness and not to perpetuate a cycle of violence. In Matthew 5:39 the emphasis is on resisting the temptation to get even, in line with many other passages in the Bible (Psalm 37, Proverbs 24, 1 Thes. 5:15, 1 Peter 3:9). In many cases of abuse and violence, the first thing to do is to remove oneself from the immediate threat. Then, try to find a solution and if possible, even reconciliation. Keep love (of self and others) as the guiding principle all the time.



Cradle Roll



This ministry is designed to maintain contact with the infants and young children baptized in Nativity Lutheran Church. The link is the sending of materials like bible story books every 6 months for 3 years. These gifts help the parents of the newly baptized with reminders to thank God for the gift of these children. These resources help equip parents to fulfill their promise to teach their children about God and bring them to church to give praise and glory to God and to know their sisters and brothers in Christ. Please contact Judy Dietz at 352-942-8542 if you would like to assist in this ministry.



By Lyn G. Derenski



4 AREAS OF MINISTRY

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

Spiritual Life

Jack Page

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jack.page@nlcww.org

Ruth Ann Hoy

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Columbarium

Mercy Ministry

Communion
& Visitation

Grief Support

Prayer Chain

Pavers

Stewardship

Worship & Music

Acolytes & Crucifers

Altar Guild

Assisting Ministers

Audio-Video

Bulletin Folders

Choir

Greeters

Nativity Ringers

Nursery

Readers

Sanctuary Team

Ushers

Outreach

June Kristoferson

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Backpack Ministry

Communication Team

Evangelism Team

Food Pantry

Fund Raisers*

Membership Team

Mission & Outreach

(Assist internal & external ministries)

Angel Tree

Global Missions - Haiti

Golden Rainbow
Ranch

Luther Springs

New Generation

People Helping

People

Resurrection House

World Hunger - ELCA

Mission Endowment

Thrivent Action Team

Christian Ed

Janet Jones

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Adult Forum (Sunday Bible Study)

Archives

Bible Study

Ceremonies

Baptism

Confirmation

Funerals

Weddings

Orientation

Children's Sunday School

Library

VBS

Youth Ministry

Luther League

Youth Advisory
Council

Community Life

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Book Club

Coffee Hour

Dinner for Eight

Fellowship

Finance Committee

Audit

Counters

Data Entry

Gardens

Golf

Hospitality

Lay Leadership

Memorial

Men's Group

Mutual Ministry

Parish Nurse*

Property & Safety

Women of Nativity

Cards R Us

Crafty Ladies

Days for Girls

Friendship Circle

Mary Joy Circle

Sarah Circle

* Under consideration

All are welcome to attend
Ministry & Council meetings.

Nativity Lutheran Church Website

nlcww.org



TO THE GLORY
OF
GOD

Spiritual Life

Pavers Ministry

BOB HEINECKE
IN GOD'S CARE

FOREVER
IN OUR HEARTS

by Jane Henkel

Memorial pavers are a beautiful way to remember a loved one, or honor an individual or family. These lasting expressions of support are installed in the Nativity's courtyard surrounded by the gardens between the Sanctuary and Winemiller Hall.

CONFIRMATION 2015
HARRY ELLIOTT
JARED GOULD
SIMONE MATTEI
KAYLA PATTERSON

Pavers can contain the name of a loved one, parents or the family name, words of praise and small symbols.


The Pavers Committee is the group that oversees the collection of money, ordering and installation of memorial pavers. June and Buddy Kristoferson and Dan Derenski administer this program.

Pavers can be ordered anytime and by anyone to memorialize members of the congregation or even

non-members. They are \$75 each. Name(s), date (s) and symbol(s) are chosen by the requestor to be engraved onto the stone paver. That information along with the blank paver is taken to an engraver in Plant City, FL. When done, the location of the paver can be chosen by the requestor or the Paver Committee. The installation is done by Buddy Kristoferson and Dan Derenski.

Maintenance of the paver area is done by the committee every 8-12 months by power washing with a cleaning solution. Also, weed killer is used when needed to keep the area tidy.

An application to request a paver is available from the Kristofersons or the Church Office. Installation is generally done when enough pavers have been requested and completed by the engraver.

IN MEMORY OF
KATHY PROCTOR
RING THE BELLS
IN JOY & LOVE
BELL CHOIR 





OUTREACH

Mission and Outreach

Nativity and ELCA Global Mission

Global Mission is the privilege the Lord has given to his followers to spread His Word to the ends of the Earth. The concept of Global Mission has changed tremendously in the past few decades. We might be used to the idea of sending missionaries abroad representing the Church and planting mission churches, hospitals, schools and catechetical outposts. While the Church has become stronger and healthier in the developing world, the Church in the Western Hemisphere has gotten smaller. As accessibility to ordained pastors has lagged, the situations are now reversed; we have seen an increase of missionaries coming from Africa, Asia and South America to shepherd the Church both in North America and Europe.

Since we in the Northern Hemisphere lack the personnel to send out to the mission field, the mission field itself has changed to include our own territory. We have been content with supporting projects with substantial amounts of money and sometimes even with physical work, as has been the

case for many at Nativity, in our relationship with The Village of Hope, orphanage in Haiti.

Today's theology supports the local Church's growth, taking ownership of projects and a leadership role in partnership with the global Church. All the projects are borne of local needs and interests: locals know best, they may just lack resources and expertise. The global

Church "accompanies" the local Church and the agreed upon projects are executed with local participation: expenses and progress is documented for better accountability and encouragement. Seeds for Haiti, two cisterns, fences around a church campus and church windows and doors are the latest completed or near completion projects.

Pr. Levinson, who visited with us in February from Haiti, had a great time at Hamarama and at the adult forum. We all enjoyed his sermons on February 17. Our hope is to have him visit once a year.

By Pr. Giuseppe Mattei



Pastor Levson
in Haiti



CHURCH COUNCIL

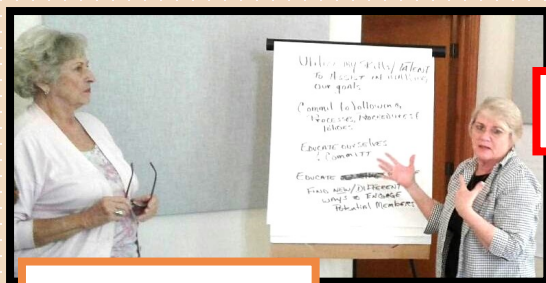
On February 1st and 2nd Council met to transition into 2019, incorporate new council members, review processes and set goals for the new year. On the afternoon of day two Council and an eclectic group of members were led by Scott Henkel in several ground up brainstorming exercises. The exercises helped to analyze:

- ◇ What actions can I take to make Nativity's Mission real for me?
- ◇ What actions can the church take to make Nativity's Mission real for our church and our community?
- ◇ What stands in our way?

These activities lead to 3 Action Groups to:

- 1.) Research the possibility of a Thrift Store
- 2.) Changes in Sunday Worship
- 3.) Improvements in internal and external communications

Individuals volunteered to work in the action group based to their interest. Some of the suggestions and ideas will require a great deal of research, review and documentation, plus Council or Congregational approval. Others were less complicated or the tools necessary to implement were already available. For instance, the ability to create a calling/business card for ministries that interface with businesses or other community groups. Another was to provide ministry email addresses for the ministry chairs to improve direct contact and speed of communication.



CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION



OUTREACH



SPIRITUAL
LIFE

COMMUNITY
LIFE

by Lyn G. Derenski



Chamber of Commerce

of Greater Hernando County

by Lyn G. Derenski

The Chamber has established 5 business objectives to accomplish their mission to strengthen our community's business environment and enable them to prosper.

- Work to overcome barriers to future economic development and a healthy and positive business climate.
- Improve the area's ability to expand and enhance employment opportunities.
- Improve the overall quality of life and standard of living for the entire community.
- Work to develop the rich human, natural, technological and man-made resources of Hernando County to further enhance economic opportunities.
- Provide support services and systems to benefit the members of your Chamber and consistently represent and advocate for the best interests of the members of the organization.



Ribbon Cutting as a new member of the CoC

Without businesses and services, we wouldn't have a community that could draw, let alone maintain, much of a population. Nativity, as a member of this organization, is able to utilize the Chamber's marketing of its members to increase our exposure in the community.

The Chamber sponsors events like the Resident's Reception and a monthly calendar where we list Nativity's events. It provides Nativity the opportunity to make our church services and ministry work known. Even more important these events afford us a chance to introduce ourselves and meet members of our community. We all know that when you've met someone and they invite you to visit or join, you are much more likely to attend than when you just read a flyer or an advertisement.

When we represent our church at community events, we share with our neighbors who and what we are about. We are truly letting them know we welcome them. These are our brothers and sisters. They will know us by our love. Through our love of self, each other, and them, they will see the love of our Lord.

Greater
Hernando
County
**CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**
STEP UP TO SUCCESS



Linda Hengesh at
the Resident's Reception



Community Life

Memorial Fund Ministry

by Jane Henkel

Nativity Lutheran Church has a Memorial Fund Committee that oversees the use and distribution of monies given to the church as memorial donations or gifts.

Many of the donations made by members or outside family/friends in memorandum have a specific purpose for which the money can be spent. These are referred to as "Designated Funds". Those funds donated for the improvement of the church with no specific needs attached are considered "Undesignated Funds". Undesignated Funds are generally used for items that are not normally funded in Nativity's annual budget.

The Memorial Committee has been in existence since 2000, according to its Chairperson, June Kristoferson. It currently has three members and meets quarterly. In these meetings, income from new memorials, gifts and expenditure requests are discussed and considered.

A request for funds is done via an application form available from either June Kristoferson or the Church Office. Criteria for consideration depends on how the monies will be used.

Currently, the Committee states that there is ~\$4000 in the Undesignated category.

Previous requests for Memorial Funds have been approved for::

- ◇ Food Pantry for groceries
- ◇ Worship & Music for sheet music
- ◇ Communications Committee to rebuild the small message sign in front of the church



- ◇ Altar Guild for linens and paraments
- ◇ Audio-Video for Microphones
- ◇ Garden for plants to enhance the entrance & court yard
- ◇ Office for new computers



Christian Education

Welcome New Members



Lisa Kell



Murial Bishop



Joe & Ruth Ryan

Alexis Peterson



Diane Zabel



Kris Hyypio



Each of these new members shared, in their own words, how welcoming they found the NLC congregation. Their joy was so apparent as they spoke to why they have chosen to be members. Please take the time to introduce yourselves and share with them a little about the ministries you serve.

Lyn G. Derenski



Spiritual Life



Columbarium

by Jane Henkel & Lyn G. Derenski

A columbarium is an above ground wall, room, or building used to inter the ashes of people who have been cremated. The name “columbarium” comes from *columba*, the Latin word for dove. The niches resemble the cubbies or houses in dovecotes (dove houses) thus the term columbarium.

As the human population has grown, space and the desire to have loved ones remains close enough to visit, are just some of the reasons for the increased use of columbaria. Another is a special peace derived from being able to visit a loved one when attending church.

Why do people choose columbarium interment? Often the choice is for the peace mind of the extended family. Many times, families are spread all over the country, even the world. The family knows this is their loved one’s church home where they are surrounded by their brothers and sisters in Christ and their place of interment is cared for by their church. Many families have chosen to inter a portion of the ashes after spreading some of the remains in other locations as requested by the deceased in a will or codicil.

Typically, the cremated remains are taken to the Columbarium after the Celebration of Life or funeral service in Nativity’s Sanctuary. Scripture is read and prayers are said while the deceased is interred. Those who do not choose a service beforehand, can have remains interred at another time by mutual agreement between the Pastor and the family of the deceased.

The Columbarium ministry of Lilo and Ernie Horeis and Dennis Rogers with assistance of Buddy Kristoferson ensure the wishes of those interred are realized. Currently, there are a total of 110 niches, 51 of which are occupied, 51 are reserved and 8 are available. Because the existing Columbarium is almost full, plans for another to be built in the same proximity are underway.

An application for a Columbarium niche is available from the Church Office. In order to reserve a niche for the future, payment in full is required with the application. The price for the available 8 niches is \$450 (as of 3/2019). The cost of the next group of niches is estimated to be around \$500 to \$525.



YOUTH



by Lorrie DeFrancesco

REALLY!



Did you
FLOCK?

*There is great joy in giving & receiving
for a good cause.*





HAMARAMA



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Hours Mon. - Fri. Hours

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Food Pantry - 9:30AM—1PM



facebook.com/nlcww



The Communicator

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**Articles by
Communication Team
and Guests**



Material included in The Communicator for Nativity is gathered from Committee Reports. If you would like material included in the publication, please submit your Committee Report to your ministry area leader (MAL).

