



Happenings at NLC

April 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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday Worship — April 14 • 8:30AM & 11:00AM

Maundy Thursday with foot washing ritual -
April 18 • 6:30PM

Good Friday Meditation at the Stations of the Cross -
April 19 • 5:00PM

Good Friday Tenebrae Service - April 19 • 6:30PM

Easter Sunday Eucharistic Celebration -
April 21 • 8:30AM & 11:00AM

Church Events

April 9 - WON Board Meeting
April 15 - Council Meeting
April 21 - Easter Breakfast
(between services)
April 24 - CPR Training

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



6363 Commercial Way, Weeki
Wachee, FL 34613 • 352-597-1456 •
www.nlcww.org

LETTER FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Welcome to April! We are in the midst of the Lenten season and preparing our hearts for Easter Sunday. For many it means we have chosen to give up something and for others we have chosen to take on something that will prepare us to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. In either case, we are eager to celebrate the powerful movement of God in our midst.

Council has taken on a rather big undertaking and we are looking forward to the opportunities this provides. As I mentioned last month, the Council held a retreat at the beginning of February. Part of the time at the retreat was spent in looking at our Constitution and reviewing our Policies and Procedures. From that review, we have started a process to update Policies and Procedures that are out of date. In February we established a committee to review our policies regarding Weddings, Funerals and Facilities Use. This committee met and divided the work load into three separate groups. Council is beginning to review their recommendations and will be modifying our policies based on their input. The group focusing on Weddings has brought some updates to the policy and some recommendations for a new set of pricing based on a review of other churches in the area. The group focused on Facilities Use has an important task of reviewing our procedures for use of the facility by both internal groups and a growing number of external groups.

Throughout the year we will be working on different parts of our Policies and Procedures Handbook. We will establish more committees, and will need people to assist with this process and hope that you will be willing to give a little of your time as we work to improve our church-wide procedures. I'm excited about this and I'm praying that you will join us by providing your valuable input. We are all part of one body and we each have different gifts to share. As we move into the future, may we share our gifts, our ideas, and our love to make Nativity Lutheran Church the best place to worship in Hernando County.

In Christian love,

Ed Lewis

SPIRITUAL LIFE

THIS LENT, our congregation has been invited to join with fellow Lutherans to give thanks for God's many blessings and to give during the **ELCA World Hunger 40 Days of Giving Campaign**. During the 40 days of Lent, let's set aside \$2.00/day or more for the hungry. **Bring your total donations to the altar on Maundy Thursday, April 18 during the 6:30PM worship service.** Make your check payable to Nativity for a record of your giving and write "40 Days of Giving" in the memo line.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY - April 14, 8:30AM & 11:00AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 18, 6:30PM

Service includes foot washing ritual.

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS- April 19, 5:00PM - 6:15PM

On Good Friday, April 19, 2019, several Experiential Prayer Stations will be offered from 5:00-6:15pm (prior to the Tenebrae Service). Each station includes a passage from scripture, reflection questions, a sensory representation of part of Christ's journey during the last week of his life, and suggestions for actions you may take to share in this journey. You will have the opportunity to touch, taste, see, smell, and hear along the way. Some stations will include items for you to take as reminders of the experience. One station invites you to eat and drink and wash, just as Jesus did with his disciples. Break off a piece of bread. Feel the water. This is an experiential approach to prayer. We hope that you will come and see a different way of participating in Good Friday. If you have question, please call Kim Mehan at 727-207-0071.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE - April 19, 6:30PM

HOLY WEEK SERVICES (Cont'd)

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES - April 21, 8:30/11:00AM

Your Nativity Lutheran Youth Group will be offering a wonderful breakfast **only between services on Easter morning** featuring pancakes with toppings, sausage, scrambled eggs, tea, coffee and juice. The breakfast is a fundraiser for the Youth Group, and tickets will be available in advance for a donation.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3 & 10 — Lenten Soup and Sandwich — 5:00PM. Each week the various committees/groups at Nativity continue to host Soup & Sandwich Suppers prior to the Wednesday Lenten services. They are held in Winemiller Hall and everyone is welcome. The sign-up list for the committees/groups that are hosting is on the kiosk in the Narthex. We are always looking for people to help with the Lenten Suppers. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Lilo Horeis at 352-666-7584 or Evelyn Galli at 352-684-2261.

WEDNESDAY SERVICES DURING LENT

APRIL 3 & 10 Lenten Services continue to be held at 5:45PM. Prior to the service, please join us for “Soup & Sandwiches” in Winemiller Hall from 5-5:30PM.

SOUL SEEKERS - MONDAY, APRIL 8, 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 shelltbf@hotmail.com.

ALTAR GUILD – APRIL 17, 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**.

EASTER LILIES ARE ON SALE AS OF MARCH 31ST, and are \$8.00 each. Last day to order is April 14th. These lilies will adorn our Sanctuary April 21st - Easter Sunday's Celebration of our risen Lord. Following the 11:00AM service on the 21st, you may take our lily home

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS to start again after Easter. 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 - WEEKEND BLESSINGS

Many of you are familiar with our program because you see us on Friday mornings in Winemiller Hall packing food into backpacks. For those of you who aren't familiar with the program, Weekend Blessings is sponsored by PHP (People Helping People). It was designed to provide food for children who otherwise might go hungry on the weekends. Studies have proven that nutritious food on weekends for needy children correlates to better student achievement. Our church is one of many who partner with PHP. In fact, this is the largest backpack program in Hernando County.

Nativity's partner school is Pine Grove Elementary and we service approximately 120 students. This averages out to over 8,000 meals packed per year for our school. Nativity has a small, but dedicated group of volunteers who order and purchase the food, stock the pantry, pack the backpacks and deliver them to the school on a weekly basis. In fact, I would like to acknowledge Alice Seeholzer, Connie Harvey, Mark and Linda Hengesh, Susan Martinetti and Carl Fish.

Although we get the majority of our funding from PHP, we also rely on monetary donations from individuals or organizations. Please know we greatly appreciate all the support that everyone at Nativity has given us throughout the past years.

Remember Proverbs 22:9 reminds us "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor". If you would like to help us support these children, please consider making a donation by filling out a green envelope in the back of the pew.

TROMPETER FUND GRANTS AWARDED

The Mission Endowment Committee has awarded grants from the David and Dorothy Marie Trompeter Endowment Fund for 2019. Although the last quarter of 2018 was disappointing for investments, the Committee was pleased to distribute \$53,500 to mission projects in our church and community. A list of the awards is posted on the kiosk in the narthex and on the bulletin board in the Administrative Building. The Trompeter Endowment guidelines dictate that none of the fund or proceeds of the fund can be used for current expenses or building programs of the church. It is completely separate from our church's budget.

EVANGELISM AND VISITORS.....DOING OUR PART

One Saturday evening in September of 2001, I visited Nativity Lutheran Church. I had attended other churches, in the area, seeking "my spiritual place to worship". The service was beautifully done by Pastor Roen in celebration of Pastor Phil Schroeder who was retiring.

At the end of the service as I was leaving, two beautiful smiling faces approached me with an extended hand and a warm welcome. These two people were Bob and Barb Strohl. They invited me to join them for cake and coffee. Of course, not being a member I declined. That did not work for them.... they assured me member or non-member "everyone" was welcome to partake and it would be a good opportunity to meet other people in the congregation.

Well, needless to say, I took them up on their offer. I stayed for cake, coffee and a very nice celebration for Pastor Phil and wife Sharon, met more people who also gave a warm welcome. I got the feeling that I belonged which is a great feeling to a visitor.

In November 2001, I joined Nativity. I strive to continue to welcome visitors as I had been welcomed by Bob and Barb 18 years ago. A warm smile and a few kind words⁷ go a long way.

Glenna Schantl

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

BIBLE STUDY – Sunday, April 7 & 28, 2019 - 9:45AM - 10:45AM — Witnesses to the Resurrection

The class is co-led by Pr. Giuseppe and Deacon Clyde Rosten. We will complete the study of Matthew 28:18-20.



BIBLE STUDY – Wednesdays, April 3 & 10, 2019 - 7:30PM, “FACING TROUBLES IN THE CHURCH”: A STUDY IN 1 CORINTHIANS.

Each Wednesday evening at 7:30PM 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.



UPCOMING: SPECIAL LEADERSHIP MEETING WITH REV. CARLSON - Sunday, May 5, 9:45AM - 10:45AM.

Pr. Robert Carlson, Assistant to the Bishop/Director for Evangelical Mission, will be at Nativity to meet with our church council and any ministry chair. During the meeting we will update Pr. Carlson on our ministry and he will share with us insights about the demography of our area. Visiting and supporting our Lutheran churches is part of Pr. Carlson ministry to the Synod.

CONFIRMATION CLASS — Sunday, April 14 & 28, 2019 - 9:45AM-10:45AM.

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

COMMUNITY LIFE

WOMEN OF NATIVITY (WON)

WOMEN OF NATIVITY BOARD MEETING - Tuesday, April 9, 2019 - 10AM-12PM in the Library. Please join us!

CARDS R US - Wednesday, April 3 & 10, 2019 -12:30PM -3PM

Cards R Us will be meeting on the first and second Wednesday in April (April 3 and April 10). We will be making cards from your donated, used greeting cards from 12:30PM - 3:00PM in Al Lien Hall. Join us for a fun and creative afternoon! We invite you to do your Easter card shopping at our kiosks in the Narthex, and in the Administration Building hallway. All profits are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which enables him to help people with one-time emergencies such as utility bills, bus tickets, fuel for their autos, a motel room, etc.

PAINTING CLASS - Wednesday, April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2019 - 10AM-12PM. 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.

MARY JOY CIRCLE—Thursday, April 11, 2019 - 12:30PM. Our monthly Bible study continues on Thursday, April 11, 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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - Saturday, April 13, 12PM. Friendship Circle will enjoy a board game/Weeki Wachee beach/potluck day on Saturday, April 13, beginning at Noon. This will be at Susan Nordstrom's condo, 6680 River Run Blvd., Weeki Wachee 34607. Parking is available in any non-carport spot and you will be given a Visitor Pass to place on your dash. Susan will provide Maid-Rites (midwest style beef crumble sandwiches) and beverages. You may want to bring a favorite dish from your "up north" home. We will have devotions and a short meeting. Then let the games and beach fun begin! The beach is conveniently located outside Susan's back door. All are welcome. Please let Susan know at 352-428-1918 if you plan to attend.

A REMINDER: The Teddy Bear Project is ongoing, so we always appreciate any teddy bears and other stuffed critters you donate. Friendship Circle, with advice from founder Judy Dietz, is collecting your donated little animals and delivering them to Hernando Fire and Rescue and the Florida Highway Patrol. These first responders are giving them to children for comfort them during a traumatic time. So clean out your closets and shop sales for this mission. You can leave them in bins or in Al Lien Hall on a table.

CRAFTY LADIES - Fridays, 9:00AM -11:00AM.

We are a group of approximately 17 women, who meet every Friday morning at Nativity from 9:00AM until 12:00 noon. These dedicated ladies, iron, cut squares, pin and sew the quilts together, and tie a knot in every square. In 2018 we made 163 quilts in addition to 27 children quilts for families as part of the Angel Tree Prison Ministry, who were mainly made by Judy Dietz. If you were in Church on the 29th of January, you got to see all the quilts placed on the pews, altar railings, and choir chairs. The next day we folded the quilts and placed them into boxes which we then delivered to Shepherd Lutheran Church in Tampa for shipment to Maryland. From there all the quilts will be shipped within the US, and worldwide where most needed. Some quilts go to the Hernando Courthouse for people who graduate from Drug, Mental Health and Alcohol programs, and at times to a homeless person who comes to our Church. We enjoy this project and fellowship we have together. We even take time out for a cup of coffee and a piece of cake. Please come and join us. Questions? Call Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

DAYS FOR GIRLS — Thursday, April 18, 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 information, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

FELLOWSHIP — PATTY FROM PATTI

Spring has sprung and our season is starting to come to a close. Here is what we have left:

Monday April 29th, Mystery Dinner at the Church 4:00PM.

The last Mystery Dinner of the season is on the schedule. We will meet at Church at 4:00PM for appetizers, and then proceed to our unknown restaurant. If you would like to attend, we will start selling deposits on Sunday, March 31st. The deposit is \$10.00 per person, and will be returned to you upon your arrival at church. You won't be disappointed, as these are always fun nights.

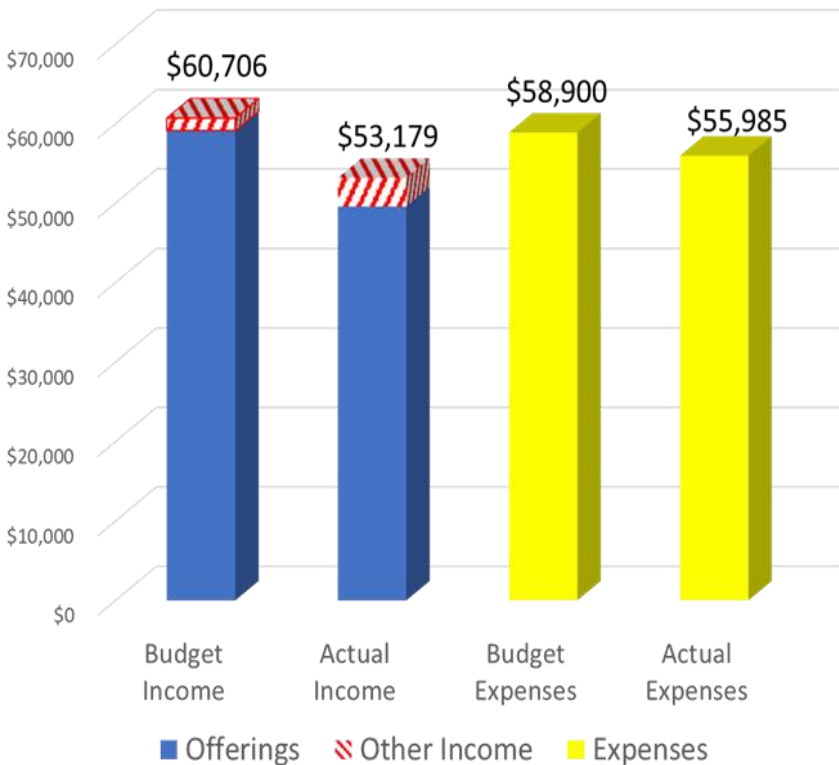
Tim is interested in gathering info for a baseball game in May. It would either be the Tarpons or the Threshers. If you would be interested in participating in an evening of baseball and food, please contact Tim at cotter1944@gmail.com by April 12th. If there are enough to get group rates we can move on with the plans. Also let him know if you will need transportation or if you can offer some.

As we close our season, we thank all of you who have told us how much you enjoyed our events, it makes it all worth it. A big thanks to the Fellowship Committee, they have been fantastic this year when I was unable to lead. We are like one big family and I love them all. Our first event in September will be a Mystery Dinner and the date for our annual Fall Festival is Saturday, October 26th. Have a wonderful summer, enjoy your travels if you are on the road, and see ya in the fall.

Patti Cotter

FEBRUARY 2019 Financial Report from the Financial Secretary. Giving continues the January trend--being significantly below expected. Nativity is now \$9K short in giving for the year. Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving to help reverse this trend. The good news is that expenses are slightly below budget and attendance held steady from last year. For more information, email jane.henkel@nlcww.org. --Jane Henkel

2019 Year-To-Date Income and Expenses



Questions: jane.henkel@nlcww.org

MEN'S BREAKFAST – Tuesday, April 16, 2019–8:30AM.

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 WITH NLC WEBSITE.

The Communication team is looking for volunteers to help with maintaining the Nativity Lutheran Church website. The program we use for the website is very easy to use and work can be done from home. If you would like to learn more about this or would like to volunteer (we will train you), please contact Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119 or at evelyn.galli@nlcww.org.



AV OPERATORS NEEDED. The audio operator makes sure the congregation can hear the spoken word and music. Please consider helping to take on this very important (yet simple) task. If you are able to operate your TV remote control and you have good hearing, you are a candidate to join the Audio Operators Team. Men, women, boys and girls are all capable of operating the audio system. Only one service, one Sunday a month is all that is required. Stop by the audio console at the rear of the sanctuary or call Art Alt at 352-596-1585 for more info.



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.

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 all that is needed.¹⁴



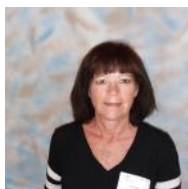
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Muriel Bishop



Kris Hyypio



Lisa Kell



Alexis Peterson



Joe and Ruthie Ryan



Diane Zabel

REMINDERS

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

SAVE THE DATE: Dorothy Apgar's Memorial Service will be held on Friday, May 10th at 10:00AM. Light refreshments will follow in Winemiller Hall.

TIM NOE has left for the Peace Corp. After April 02, 2019, you may send him a card. He would enjoy hearing from the NLC Members.

Tim Noe, PCT
Cuerpo de Paz Paraguay
Chaco Boreal 162, c/Mcal. Lopez
Asuncion, Paraguay

"PCT" stands for Peace Corps Trainee.

CPR TRAINING

We are scheduled for training on Friday, April 24, 2019, 6:00PM - 9:30PM at Nativity Lutheran Church. Cost \$50.00/person. Another sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex early April. We appreciate your understanding and we would appreciate everyone's email addresses. Any questions, please contact Susan Lee at 586-405-3129.



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.

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.

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 **May** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email nativitylutheran63@gmail.com, and to Evelyn Galli via email evgalli@bcany.com by **April 15**.

MISSION STATEMENT

With the birth of Jesus in our hearts
we carry light and love to the world.

VISION STATEMENT

We seek to become people who live the nativity by...

Giving Worship and Praise to our God: Presenting ourselves before God as adoring servants, who, in loving God, recognize that it is no longer we who are at the center of the universe, but the One to whom we are singing our praises.

Intentionally giving ourselves as Christ's servants: Participating in his mission in the world, helping those who need our help, both in our church family and in the world beyond: recognizing that there can never really be any peace or joy for us until there is peace and joy for others.

Opening our doors and our hearts to all people: Welcoming all to our fellowship, caring for all in Christian love, and reaching out with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Encouraging each other to grow in faith: Growing our understanding of the scripture and God's leading in our lives through study of the Word, meditation, and prayer; knowing that learning is not just a matter of the mind, but also of the heart, and that raising questions is sometimes of more value than finding answers.

Being responsible to God through the creative use of our income, possessions, time and talent; recognizing that loving our neighbor is not so much a feeling as it is an act of will, and that sharing what we have on behalf of the Kingdom of God is only giving back what was already God's to being with.

Celebrating the gift of life together: Loving our neighbor, losing ourselves and then finding ourselves, having discovered that the Good News means that it is impossible not to feel joy in the presence of the Savior.

OUR 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 no 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, possessions, education, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability or other distinctions. (Adopted 9/7/07)

April Birthdays

Frank Defrancesco	04/02
Carlan Helgeson	04/03
Carolyn Beasley	04/04
Ashley Hoy	04/04
Howard Schaefer	04/05
William Hamm	04/06
JoAnne Stuck	04/06
Sylvia Scebba	04/07
Olivia Haaland	04/08
Lorraine Dobbe	04/11
Catherine Hill	04/13
Susan Lee	04/13
Douglas Johnson	04/14
Michael Davis	04/15
Linda Hengesh	04/16
Hazel Zake	04/16
Charles Hughes	04/18
Martin Salzbach	04/18
Linda Rizzo	04/19
Giacomo Mattei	04/20
Darla Strey	04/20
Jim Christensen	04/21
James Stuck	04/21
Gary Hopkins	04/24



Crystal Ortiz	04/25
Sierra Ortiz	04/25
Joshua Wozniak	04/26
Joanne Morrow	04/28
Jack Chase	04/29
Renee Desilets	04/30
James Nelson	04/30
Meredith Wozniak	04/30

April Wedding Anniversaries

Richard and Sandra Sander	04/02
George and Lonora Smith	04/18
Ernie and Lilo Horeis	04/23
Philip and Cheryl Wolfe	04/25
Gregory and Charlene Massey	04/27
Michael and Linda Thelen	04/30