



Happenings at NLC

July 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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 15 – 19, 2019

9:00am-12:15pm



Bible Stories, Crafts, Skits, Games, Music,
Water Slide, Snacks, Free Lunch and more

For more info or a Registration Sheet, please call 352-597-1456,
email nativitylutheran63@gmail.com, or visit www.nlcww.org

Upcoming Events

July 04 - Office and Food Pantry Closed
Happy 4th of July!!

July 14 - Adult Forum begins, 9:45AM
(Winemiller)

July 16 - Men's Breakfast, 8:30AM at My
Nanny's Restaurant

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

As we start the month of July, we, as citizens of the United States of America, celebrate July 4th as our Independence Day. It is a day when we pause to remember that ancestors in the original 13 colonies decided to declare independence from a tyrannical king. This day is a major day of celebration in our country and we reflect on the freedoms that we enjoy because of the Declaration of Independence. We have much for which to be thankful.

I continue to be thankful for people within our congregation who see visions of a future that is different; a future for Nativity Lutheran Church that moves us forward as the Holy Spirit moves in our midst. In June, I was able to attend a technology conference in Orlando with Art and Diane Alt. What a pleasure to spend time with this couple and to explore the reaches of technology and imagine uses for our church. Art had been to the convention for two days before I arrived, and he had mapped some booths and places for me to visit as we imagined a vision for our church with new technology. I was utterly amazed by what I saw and the potential that is available.

If you remember, Art and Diane provided a demonstration for us almost two years ago showing how parts of our worship could be projected on a large screen so we would be looking up as we worshiped and not tied to the small bulletins in our hands. There are pros and cons to moving to worship with this type of technology, but it is something worth exploring. Since that demo technology has moved forward by leaps and bounds. I was able to see the type of technology being used by mega-churches with huge budgets and contemporary approaches to worship and I was able to view other options that are scaled for uses like our church. Additionally, we saw the latest in lighting, conference calling, computer security, and many other technological advances. Some things we saw were not very applicable to a church our size but provided fodder for thinking ahead to a different time and place.

I was able to talk with Art about several concerns that I had about the role of technology in our church. We bounced ideas off each other and shared time visioning. Art is going to take our discussions and think through some options for our church that he will present to the Congregation Council sometime in the future. Most will require money that currently isn't in our bank account. But if we don't start making plans, we will wake up one day and the future will move beyond us. We need to think about what is holding us back from being the best Lutheran church in Hernando County and make plans to free ourselves from the things that bind us in the past. Let's look to a future of promise as we share the love of Jesus Christ with our community.

One other item of note this month, Janet Jones has found it necessary to step down from Council. The Lay Leadership Team has quickly found a replacement and Council voted at our last meeting to ask Ashley Hoy to become a member of Council for the remainder of the year. Janet's term expires in December and the congregation will be asked to vote for someone to fill a three-year term at our meeting in December.

Blessings in Christ,

Ed Lewis

SPIRITUAL LIFE

SOUL SEEKERS - Soul Seekers will not meet during June, July, and August. We will resume again in September. If you have any questions regarding this group please contact Michelle Mehan-Conklin at 727-267-1047, or email at shelltbfb@hotmail.com.

ALTAR GUILD – no meetings for July and August.

We invite anyone (male or female) to attend one of our meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month starting in September 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.**

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.

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.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS - JULY 2019

Many of us are just now planning or beginning vacation plans and activities for this summer. This is a welcome time period for some of us volunteers, as we take a summer break in a number of regular activities and meetings. Churches like ours in Florida certainly have an additional reason to slow things down -- we not only lose volunteers due to vacations, but we lose our "snowbird" members for the whole summer. Attendance at worship services naturally declines during the summer months so that some Florida churches actually cut out or combine services.

Stewardship of many of our ministries suffers too, as we lose volunteers during the summer, even though the large majority of our work continues throughout the year. One other aspect of stewardship suffers too - financial support of our church. July and August are especially difficult for every church because budgeted income typically drops, but expenses continue unabated. The solution is not to ask those who remain active in our church during the summer to "give more." Rather, the solution is for those who are not so active to continue to fulfill their pledges and provide their other usual financial support during the lean summer months.

We ask each of you to continue your stewardship of our church by sharing your time and skills with our ministries throughout the year. Please remember too "good stewardship" includes providing financial support Nativity Lutheran Church throughout the year. The light we carry to the world must remain bright in the summer, too!

--The 2019 Stewardship Committee

OUTREACH

MISSION OF THE MONTH - REZ HOUSE DADE CITY

July's Mission of the Month is Rez House, a ministry of the synod in Dade City, Florida. Each year Nativity raises money to purchase "Back to School" shoes for the children of the migrant workers who use the services of Rez House or who worship there on Sunday. All of us remember the excitement of returning to school in the fall wearing our new school shoes. Our assistance allows the Rez House children to experience that same excitement! This year we will be purchasing shoes for 50 school age children and will be shopping at WalMart in Dade City for the shoes.

Nativity works with Rez House staff who identify the children who will receive the shoes. If you wish to make a donation for this "Back to School" shoe ministry, please place your donation in one of the green pew envelopes, write "REZ House" or "Shoes" on the envelope and place it in the collection plate.

In addition to the contributions from our parishioners, we have received a \$250 Community Action grant from Thrivent to assist with this purchase. Contact JoAnne Boggus for more details at 954-682-5766.

GREETER/HOST MEETING AUGUST 7th, 5:30PM-7:30PM in Winemiller Hall. We would like to invite all greeters, along with anyone interested in becoming part of this welcoming group, to an afternoon party. Drinks and substantial snacks will be offered. The "Host" position is being created so we can be more receptive to visitors and accommodating to members. If you are not currently a greeter, and would like to become part of our host welcoming team, please indicate your interest on the back of the Sunday attendance card, and put it in the offering plate. Please RSVP to the church office at 352-597-1456, or by email to nativityevangelism@nlcww.org.

HOW DO I DIRECT MY THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®?

Online

1. Visit **Thrivent.com/thriventchoice**.
2. In the Direct Choice Dollars section on the right, click **"Get started now."**
3. Log in, enter your user ID and password, and answer your security question. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click **"Register for account access."**)
4. Find the number of Choice Dollars available to direct.
5. Locate the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
 - a. To direct to a previous organization:
 - Click **"Direct Now"** next to the organization's name, or
 - Click on the **"View activity history"** link, scroll down and click on the **name of the desired organization**.
 - b. To direct to a new organization, **enter keyword(s)** like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click **"Search."**

6. Choose “**Direct All**” or enter a specific number and click “**Direct Now.**” Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

By Phone

1. Call **800-847-4836** and when prompted, say “**Thrivent Choice®.**”
2. **Press 1** to direct Choice Dollars or **2** to hear Thrivent Choice program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
3. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM PROJECTS

“GOOD NEWS!”

We did it again, another 12 projects were approved to help our community outreach during April, May, and June.

\$250.00 - free seed money x 24 projects = \$6,000

Thank you Thrivent Members!

ATTN: CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS!

If you're not an Associate Member of Thrivent, you can take advantage of becoming one. The cost is only \$19.95 a year and there are “no strings attached”. Once you become an Associate Member, you can participate in a Thrivent Action Team Project for our Mission & Outreach to the community. You will receive seed money, a \$250.00 credit card (free) for your project. Nativity members who have become Associate Thrivent Members have done 18 projects totaling \$4,500. See or call Ernie Horeis at 352-666-7584, for an application or for more information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

THIS SUMMER!

Explore how the gospel can change your heart, community, and how to live the Gospel out in everyday life.

An interactive video/discussion adult learning opportunity.

This adult forum program will meet Sundays between services 9:45-10:45. July 14th thru August 25th.

Each weekly video based study of the gospel and how to live it out in your everyday life is a 'stand-alone' unit—so come one week or every week according to your Summer schedule.

gospelⁱⁿ**life**
Grace Changes Everything

VBS DATES ARE SET: July 15-19, 9:00AM - 12:15PM. Theme is SuperHeroes for Jesus. A week of learning, fun, and games. A free lunch will be provided for children and youth 18 and younger. Stop by the Church office for a registration form, or visit our website nlcww.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VBS: How can you help? We need volunteers to help decorate on July 14th after the 11:00AM service, help with registration, and Group Leaders to help guide the children of their group to different stations, plus other opportunities. There are sign-up sheets on the kiosk in the Narthex, pick up a form in the office or call the office at 352-597-1456.

CONFIRMATION CLASS — no classes during July and August. They will resume again in September.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL — Classes will start up again Sunday, August 25. The hours are **9:45AM-10:45AM**. Classes for children **3 and up!**

COMMUNITY LIFE

WOMEN OF NATIVITY

All women members of Nativity Lutheran Church are automatically members of W.O.N. and are welcome to participate in all sponsored activities of W.O.N.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR LOCAL CHILDREN

Last year we collected school supplies for ELCA worldwide. Although a wonderful program, we had parents from the food pantry ask us for help. This year W.O.N. will be collecting school supplies to be handed out to those in need locally through the food pantry. We will begin collecting supplies the first week of July (a box will be set up in the Narthex in early July) and continue right up to August 12 at 11:00AM when we begin filling the bags. All are welcome to come help fill the bags. If you are a local teacher, please let us know what the

MARY JOY CIRCLE - 2nd Thursday's of the month - 12:30PM. Our monthly Bible study will resume in September in Al Lien Hall. All women of Nativity are invited to join us and we look forward to welcoming you. In the meantime watch for our special luncheons. Next one will be August 8 at Timber Pines. A sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex. For more info, please contact Evelyn Lawlor at 352-835-7784.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY: AUGUST 3, 8:45AM - 12:00PM
"FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: LESSONS FROM ESTHER"

Coffee available at 8:45AM, and ends by 12:00PM. No lunch will be served.

Session 1: Pastor Mattel: the story of Esther and her adopted father

Session 2: Ruth Ann Hoy: Esther uses her strong faith and the love of her people to embolden her to act

Session 3: Vicki Page: the last chapter is full of hope for the Jews

Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex so we can plan for you. Also read the book of Esther.

Questions: contact Mary McDowall at 352-503-7215.

CARDS R US - Wednesday, July 3 & 10 - 12:30PM-3PM.

The Cards R Us group will meet on Wednesday, July 3 and July 10, 12:30PM-3:00PM, in Al Lien Hall. Everyone is welcome to make recycled greeting cards out of your used, donated cards. Making these cards is truly addictive--ask any of us! Each of you is invited to join in this project, where the completed cards are offered for suggested donations of 75 cents. And thanks to all of you who support this endeavor by shopping our card kiosks, this allowed us to donate \$715 to Pastor's Discretionary Fund in 2018. For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

PAINTING CLASS - Wednesday, July 3, 10, 24 & 31, 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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - Friendship Circle will return to the remodeled and historic Tampa Theatre for the sing-along version of the 1978 movie "Grease" on **Sunday, July 7**. Tickets are \$13 and can be purchased online at tampatheatre/ticketforce.com. The movie starts at 3:00PM, so we will meet at Nativity at 1:15PM to carpool. Afterwards, we'll continue the vintage feel at Goody Goody Burgers, where salads, plates, baskets and breakfast are also served. For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Tuesday, July 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.



DAYS FOR GIRLS - next meeting will be September 19 at 9:00AM. 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.

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. Please come and join us. Questions? Call Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

REPORT FROM THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The **FB Synod Assembly** was very educational and inspiring. We started off with 350 voting members including 20 youth and ended with over 450 voting members and 27 youth, a 25% increase of youth presence over last year! We were reminded that we are not delegates representing our congregations but voting members voting according to our conscience.

The theme was “Vitality” and introduced Bishop Pedro Suarez’ vision for the Synod. In his report, he stressed that he called the two Mission Developers (Prs. Carlson and El-Yateem) with the intention to strengthen, equip, and inspire churches. He is envisioning all congregations to be spiritually alive as announced in [1 Corinthians 15:22](#). It’s a vision that encourages all congregations to pray, study and learn about their life cycle together in cohorts.

The Assembly included several presentations. One by an ecumenical partner, Rev. John Vertigan, (UCC), vice-president of the FL Council of Churches. Pr. Russell Meyer (ELCA- FL) is the president (<https://floridachurches.org/>). An interfaith panel with two representatives of Islam (an Imam from India and an African American professor who grew up AME, African Methodist Episcopalian), and a rabbi was called together to reflect on the question “*What does it mean to be a neighbor?*” (and not simply “Who is my neighbor?”). It was suggested that through our relationship by grace with God we have a responsibility towards others.

The three panelists stressed the importance for people of different faiths to get to know other people’s faith to overcome fear and prejudices: “Hatred goes when knowledge comes.” was the Imam’s conclusion. An inter-religious statement is going to be presented for adoption at the Church-wide assembly in Milwaukee, WI in August (you may read more here: <https://elca.org/Faith/Ecumenical-and-Inter-Religious-Relations/Inter-Religious-Relations/Draft-Policy-Statement>).

Other lively presentations were made by the FB Synodical *Women's Organization* (over 7300 quilts made by our FL churches in 2018), the *Global Mission Team* chair (the number of churches participating in mission projects doubled and the money collected for missions grew four-fold compared to last year!), the *Lutheran Immigration and Refugees Services* of FL president (LIRS is expanding its Detention Visitation program in 2019 and launching a new program that will offer case management to vulnerable asylum-seeking families), the *Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary* Rector (approx. 60% of the students are ELCA, with the rest coming from a variety of denominations. The FB Synod supported LTSS with a gift of \$67,273 last fiscal year.), the *Lutheran World Hunger* representative (gifts this year have totaled over \$24.5 million Churchwide).

Our Synod passes on 46% of total mission support to the ELCA. We also watched "Father K," a documentary that depicts Pr. Khader El-Yateem's (one of the two Assistants to the Bishop) run for city council in New York City. We voted for synod council positions and other committee positions and considered the budget for the next year. The financial chair reported 100%+ income from congregations' mission support. There is a new stewardship training tool that the Bishop's Office is recommending. The bishop also responded to the question: "Where does my money go?" Church Anniversaries and Anniversaries of Ordination were celebrated.

I was the liturgical director for the opening service and Ashley Hoy (adult votive member) and Jayson Martin (youth votive member) served as Communion Assistant and Acolyte. The other adult voting member was Karen Crawford. We enjoyed the Thursday evening dinner together, with many laughs and insights.

God's Blessings, Pastor Mattei

Dear Nativity Council and Pastor Mattei:

Thank you for the privilege of attending the Florida-Bahamas Synod 2019 Assembly on June 6-8 at the Embassy Suites in Kissimmee, Florida. The theme of this meeting was “Alive in Christ” 1 Corinthians 15: 20, 22.

Over the course of the meeting that theme was evident in varied presentations given by Synod Council members, agencies of the Synod, Pastor’s from our Synod and the National Synod office, as well as our Florida-Bahamas Bishop Rev. Pedro M. Suárez and his two new Assistant’s to the Bishop/Director for Evangelical Mission, Pastor Khader El-Yateem, South Region and Pastor Rob Carlson, North Region. Bishop Suarez stated that assemblies and retreats are necessary to strengthen relationships and assist in communicating the mission of the ELCA: Ministry Vitality, deliberate international diversity and healthy leadership. We all wore ‘Vitality’ buttons which is a new Synod initiative for re-examining our church mission.

All of the material required for this Assembly was communicated electronically. During the meeting we used an App on our cell phone or tablet and there was a large presentation screen instead of paper. At the Assembly we voted, using an electronic device, for new synod council members and on a resolution statement from the Congregation of St. Paul, Niceville. We adopted the Synod’s ministry spending plans and reviewed and acted upon reports from ministry areas and agencies of the synod. There were 450 voting members present. There were inspirational opening and closing Worship services that were open to anyone who desired to attend.

Several presentations and speeches were outstanding in message and passion. The Synod Vice president, Cheryl Stuart, spoke about the current challenges we are facing in our country and concluded that “The church is the solution” and it is our mission to strengthen our community relationships. We watched a video, “For Such a Time”, featuring the ELCA Bishop Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton conveying this same message (see first link below).

The Assembly hosted a very interesting interfaith panel discussion consisting of a Rabbi an Imam and a Muslim leader who meet once a month in Central Florida. Time was allotted for questions from the Assembly and that session went over time. We had the pleasure of watching the documentary, Father K (see second link below). Pastor Khader El-Yateem (Father K in the movie) further shared his experience with the Assembly after the movie. The story by the Interim Pastor at Messiah Lutheran in Panama City was one of sadness as he described the destruction left behind last year by Hurricane Michael. That community is still struggling to survive.

The third link below shows our Synod staff. They are truly a talented group of people and we are fortunate to have them in our midst during this time of change. At the bottom of that web page you can sign up for E-Spirit, the synod Newsletter. This is a good way to be inspired by the big picture of the Lutheran Church community outside of our church walls and understand the dynamic changes we have in our future. I would be remiss if I did not mention the Synod hired an excellent professional comedian who reminded us that God has a sense of humor and so should we.

In order to accommodate growing attendance at future Assembly meetings the 2020 Assembly will meet at a new location, the Caribe Royal in Kissimmee, June 5-7.

Peace be with you,
Karen Crawford

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMVrRrKF2sg>

<https://www.fatherkmovie.com/>

<https://fbsynod.com/who-we-are/office-of-the-bishop-staff/>

Ashley Hoy – Synod Assembly

This was my first year as a voting member representing our church.

It was a lot different than just being one of the volunteers. As a voting member I had less down time but the day seemed to flow faster. In between voting sessions we had guest speakers and meal breaks.

I thought it was interesting that there was a comedian at the assembly because it made it more fun.

Another interesting part of the assembly was that one of the bands sang in both Spanish and English which got people more involved in singing along with the words on the screens.

During the assembly there were also two worship services, an opening and a closing one. I assisted with the gluten free wafers for the opening worship service. It was a fun and new experience because two years ago I was an assistant minister at the Assembly, but did not help with communion.

Many of the adults were so nice and engaged me in conversation throughout the assembly to learn more about me and many of the other youth that attended. Talking to others and listening to their views when we could go up to a microphone during voting sessions helped form my own opinion on the things we were voting on.

Overall, It was a really great experience!

2019 Synod Assembly Report - Jayson Martin

Hello, my name is Jayson Martin and this is my report of my experience at the 2019 Synod Assembly.

To start, I had a wonderful time learning and interacting at this year's assembly as a volunteer and youth voting member. It was the first time that I went. so a lot of it was new to me. The services we had were generally similar to a normal church service so I was able to put in my share of work with no problem. I was also able to look deeper into my faith as I met a lot of people who really put themselves in the religious community. On top of that, I found a few opportunities for my education such as universities that offer courses in the area along with my interests. So this helped me more to know about my future and the adult input helped me even more.

On the other hand, I wasn't bored because the hotel had a very nice room provided for my fellow youth to hang out in. We got to talk with each other about our interests and find out what other people enjoyed doing. We were provided with some of our meals and we had a nice time partying and doing "teen stuff". On the last night that we spent at the hotel, the Bishop dropped by and gave us some advice. He spoke about his experiences and discussed what we should do in certain situations dealing with modern day issues. Then he went off partying doing "adult stuff". In the end we had almost 30 youth voting members there so we had a nice group.

Last but not least, I feel like the voting process and what you go through is very important. We have our responsibilities in the church and even though they may be few, we should be concerned about them. The voting was for who we thought was a person who could take on a certain role in the church. Although it may not be one of us in the end, we should take this into consideration and see what we can do. So ask not what your church can do for you, but what you can do for your church.

So that pretty much sums up how I spent my time at the Assembly. I had so much fun that I told Pastor I wanted to go again. I also think that if each member went, even just once, that it would really affect them in a great way.

So thank you all and have a wonderful day!

***A Word from the Synod Assembly
Social Project Organizers***

Thanks to everyone's generosity and contribution to the Synod Assembly service project (*the request was for toiletry items to be donated to a homeless shelter in Orlando*), we were able to make a huge impact on behalf of Community Hope Center! Here's the impact in numbers:

\$2,700 - gift cards

\$1,898 - bills/checks

\$1,784.56 - coins

\$6,382.56 total cash and cards

793 kids bags assembled

66 congregations participated

60 brought items

38 brought cash/coinage/checks

19 brought gifts cards

7 Utilized a Thrivent Action Team

**"Thank You" to all of you at Nativity of Weeki
Wachee for your donations.**

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The month of May's envelope giving now is ~\$11,000 less than anticipated; however, with the yearly Morganroth distribution of ~\$7000, NLC's overall budget giving deficit has been reduced to approximately \$5500. Overall, this may seem like good news. But as we enter the sparse-giving months of the summer season, Nativity has bills and expenses that need to continually be paid with or without adequate giving.

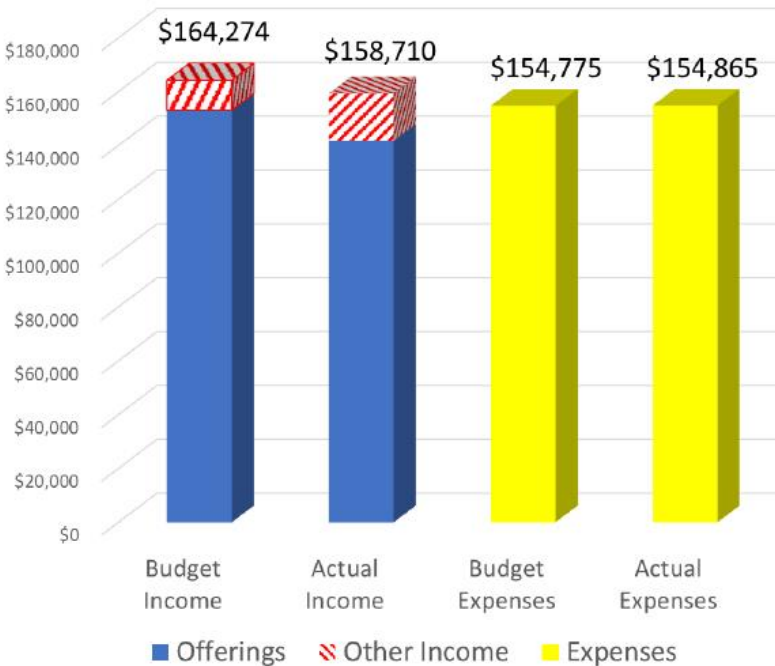
Thankfully, expenses have been held to budgeted amounts through the diligence of our Treasurer, Ev Galli.

Attendance in May is similar to last year and greater than 2017 which is encouraging. Combining this information with the giving deficit means that the same number of congregants are giving less. Graphs showing more specific numbers have been posted on the kiosk in the Narthex.

Any questions, please email me at jane.henkel@nlcww.org.

--Jane Henkel, 2019 Financial Secretary

2019 Year-To-Date Income and Expenses





HELP WANTED. THE WOMEN OF NATIVITY organization is looking for volunteers to represent Nativity at the Hernando County Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Veteran Court graduations. These graduates have redeemed themselves by completing very stringent treatment programs. Their Treatment Teams have recommended that their legal cases be dropped. Women of Nativity participates in congratulating the graduates, gives them cards and Crafty Ladies' quilts, and provides cupcakes to make their graduation days a celebration. Graduations are held monthly at the Courthouse in Brooksville on a Thursday afternoon. Women, men and youth are all invited to participate in this important mission. If you would like to learn more about this program or would like to volunteer, please contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

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.



COUNTERS NEEDED — Every week 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 8:45AM once a month, and it takes about 1.5-2 hours to complete. For more information, please call Ernie Horeis at 352-666-7584.

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. Men, women, boys and girls, 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. 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. Any questions, contact Linda Wagner at 352-799-8577 or JoAnne Berg at 352-428-0156.



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.



REMINDERS

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

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 **August** newsletter, please submit it to the office, or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com, by **July 15**.

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.

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)

July Birthdays

Bonnie Kuester	7/1
Marion Attaviano	7/3
Harold Reber	7/7
Carl Roa	7/7
Christopher Wright	7/7
Tom Schneider	7/8
Douglas Beals Jr.	7/9
Darlene Christensen	7/9
Joan Rasper	7/10
Paul Chipko	7/12
Christina Roa	7/15
Irmgard Timm	7/15
Carol Fleschner	7/16
Anna Hupp	7/16
Harry Elliott	7/17
Kimberly Still	7/17
Jessica Miller	7/20
Elizabeth Capell	7/22
Bob Schneider	7/23



James Glessner	7/24
Tim Noe	7/24
Nina Vaznelis	7/24
Gilbert Herr	7/25
Lynn Cawley	7/26
Barbara Strohl	7/26
Richard Posewitz	7/27
John Gauthier	7/29
Mary Reber	7/30
Arthur Alt	7/31
Elmer Heupel	7/31
Janet Jones	7/31
Jacob Sandals	7/31

July Wedding Anniversaries

Cindy and Bernie Rogers	7/2
Ruth Ann and Don Hoy	7/6
Jane and Scott Henkel	7/11
Michelle and Kim Mehan-Conklin	7/18
Asta and Carl Lundh	7/20
Darla and Kenneth Strey	7/23
Marilyn and Thomas Schneider	7/27
Nancy and Carl Fish	7/29
Lynne and Chestley Merritt	7/29

