



# Happenings at NLC

May 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

Sunday, May 12, 2019

Happy   
Mother's  
Day

## Church Events

May 5 - Special Leadership Meeting  
with Rev. Carlson

May 5 - Rachel's Day

May 10 - Dorothy Apgar's Memorial Service

May 11 - U.S. Postal Food Drive

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



6363 Commercial Way, Weeki  
Wachee, FL 34613 • 352-597-1456 •  
[www.nlcww.org](http://www.nlcww.org)

## *LETTER FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT*

This year doesn't seem to be slowing down. I thought that once I retired that things would be slower. It doesn't appear to be the case. Your church council hasn't slowed down either and we continue to move forward with several activities. One of those is monitoring the financial situation of our church. At the annual meeting in January, the council presented the proposed budget for 2019. As we discussed this budget and our past fiscal year, some people asked if we could provide more information throughout the year.

This year your council is monitoring our income and expenses and our Financial Secretary, Jane Henkel, and our Treasurer, Evelyn Galli, are providing some new reporting to assist us with our responsibility. Jane has taken her new role very seriously and has looked at our income from many perspectives. She has agreed to provide some monthly reporting that you should find in the announcement sheet of your bulletin. Additionally, she agreed to provide a Temple Talk on April 28<sup>th</sup>. I hope you were able to listen to her message and know that we are concerned about increasing our weekly offerings in order to meet our projected expenses. As our Financial Secretary, Jane is charged with monitoring our giving, ensuring that receipts are properly documented and deposited. She is looking for positive ways of increasing our income and ensuring that we remain in the black.

Evelyn Galli is our Treasurer and is responsible for paying our expenses and making sure that we don't forget to pay the electric bill on time. Evelyn has been instrumental in finding many ways to save money. We have renegotiated several contracts, thanks to her efforts, and found considerable savings. However, our fixed expenses are substantial, and we are continuing to look for additional cost savings. Evelyn has started a process of new reporting for committees that have line items in our budget. She is ensuring that committees know how much they have in their budget and how much they have spent. She is using a new purchase order process to ensure that appropriate approvals have been made prior to ordering goods and services.

I would ask that you review fiscal statements that are presented on a monthly basis. If you have questions about our income to expense ratio or other financial inquiries, please feel free to contact either Jane or Evelyn. They will be happy to answer questions and provide information that they have.

In Christian love, *Ed Lewis*

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE**

### **SOUL SEEKERS - MONDAY, MAY 13, 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 – May 15, 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**.

### **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.

## OUTREACH

### MISSION OF THE MONTH - WORLD HUNGER

I am addressing you as a member of the Outreach Committee. My main focus concerns World Hunger.

As an example, Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria are only some of the reasons why there is hunger in parts of this country, inclusive of Puerto Rico. Out west, such as in California, Oregon and Washington, numerous huge forest fires and earthquakes have also created circumstances leaving many people homeless. What about those devastating floods in Texas? The rest of our world is devastated by earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, fire and despots who reduce population by extinction.

Let us just look south of the United States. Consider the devastation in Mexico due to earthquakes, and yes, they have experienced more than one. How about in Haiti? Now that's one of the poorest country in this hemisphere. They have not only been affected by one dictatorship after another, but also have been hit by the hurricanes and an earthquake. These people are in a state of plight with no place to turn to, but to us. Can we as Christians ignore them and really let them go hungry?

Some of the South American countries are not faring well, either, such as Nicaragua.

And now we must look at the Asian countries who have millions of people who are not only hungry, but obviously they are homeless. Killings not only by ISIS, but by their own dictators have caused a sight left worse than the results of a world war. People are fleeing to many countries in an attempt to escape these despots; however, they are refused admittance in some countries. Now what? Just sit there and die?

We have a right, an obligation to feed these people. Just refer to the bible. How I wish that Jesus Christ was here to mass produce fish, and bread and wine for these poor souls. But he's not; therefore, it is up to the rest of humanity to feed our brothers and sisters of this world. The ELCA has undertaken a huge responsibility to feed as many people as possible – especially thru the ELCA World Hunger program which we, as Lutherans, as Christians, share a joint responsibility.

This is our chance to help. Maybe you may feel that our dollars only help in little ways: however, any giving, no matter what the amount, is taken in a big way. Even your children can help with pennies and nickels from their piggy banks. It may seem fruitless for us to feed so many, but what if we all chipped in to help. You can help by putting your contributions into one of the ELCA World Hunger envelopes you will find in your envelope boxes, or just use one of the green envelopes right in front of you in your pew. Just mark it World Hunger.

I feel an obligation as a believer in Jesus Christ to help. Otherwise, why are we here? What do we believe? What have we learned from the Bible?

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I thank you for being a part of this salvation.

Thank you. Yours in Christ,

Jim Christensen

## **THRIVENT NEWS**

Thrivent Benefit or Associate Members - there are still Action Team Projects available for you to apply.

1. Crafty Ladies: purchase material, batting, thread.
2. Cards R Us: purchase material for putting cards together.
3. Seeds for Haiti: purchase seeds for planting and other needs.
4. Food Pantry: food for animals, hygiene products.
5. Weekend Blessings: peanut butter and other selected items.
6. N.A.M.I.: purchase material for making a brochure.
7. Lighthouse for the Blind: purchase food for clients to learn how to cook and become independent.

Please Note: If you are interested in becoming an Associate Member of Thrivent, it will cost you \$19.95 a year, but you can receive a \$250.00 (credit card) to apply for one of the projects listed above to help with our Mission Outreach to our community.

**U.S. POSTAL FOOD DRIVE - Saturday, May 11th,  
12:00PM - 5:00PM.**

Once again its time for the U.S. Postal Food Drive. Needed are volunteer drivers (2), and youth helpers. See sign up sheet in the Narthex. These helpers will meet at Nativity at 10:00AM to receive a car window recognition document as a letter carrier helper. You will also be given banana boxes to pick up food at The Heather & Regency Oaks, and bring the food back to Forest Oaks Lutheran Church. Other volunteers, see sign up sheet in Narthex, will meet at Nativity at 12:00 noon, lunch and refreshments will be available. Once our drivers arrive back at Nativity you will unpack food items, verify expiration dates (set aside), sort items into categories and fill banana boxes marking what items are inside. If you stay past 3:00PM we will have coffee and doughnuts. Any questions, please call Ernie Horeis at 352-666-7584. PS: last year we received 162 banana boxes which was a record.

# **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)**

## **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.

## **BIBLE STUDY – Sunday, May 12, 19 & 26, 2019 - 9:45AM -10:45AM — Witnesses to the Resurrection**



The Bible series "Witnesses to the Resurrection" will proceed to explore Luke's proclamation of the Good News. We will study the importance of the word "today" as it is associated with God's saving activity: the "here and now" of faithful living. For Luke, God's reign is right in front of us "today." Our study of the word "today" will be based on an article written by Troy M. Troftgruben, associate professor of New Testament at Wartburg Theological Seminary.

## **CONFIRMATION CLASS — Sunday, May 12 & 26, 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

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.

### **Lenten Soup & Sandwich Suppers**

Women of Nativity would like to thank Lilo Horeis for coordinating the Lenten Soup & Sandwich suppers this year as well as everyone who helped with set-up and clean up. In addition, W.O.N. appreciates the various committees/groups who donated the many soups (at least 8 different soups each week) and huge variety of sandwiches. Over the 5 weeks, we had 329 attend, which averaged 66 people per week. The free will offering amounted to \$400 and will be donated to the Food Pantry.

### **Cradle Roll**

Vivian Deon has volunteered to head the Cradle Roll for Nativity with Penny Morman helping her. We thank them for taking on this important ministry.

### **Rachel's Day – May 5, 2019**

Susan Nordstrom will be doing a temple talk. Rachel's Day is observed by Women of the ELCA annually on the first Sunday in May. The day takes its name from *Jeremiah 31:15–17*, in which the matriarch Rachel grieves for her children. It is a time set aside to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of violence and fear that plague our nation.

## **The Residence of Timber Pines Luncheon and Tour – June 13, 2019 – 12Noon**

**ALL WOMEN** who are members of Nativity Lutheran Church are invited to tour the facilities and enjoy a luncheon at The Residence at Timber Pines.

## **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 and continue right up to August 12 at 11:00 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 most needed items are.

## **Summer Bible Study**

Please be sure to watch for this summer's Bible study program. They are always very good. **ALL WOMEN** who are members of Nativity are invited to join us for a few hours Saturday morning, August 3, from 9am-1pm.

**CARDS R US - Wednesday, May 1 & 8, 2019 -12:30PM-3PM.** Cards R Us will be making greeting cards out of your donated, used greeting cards on Wednesday, May 1 and 8, 12:30PM-3:00PM, in Al Lien Hall. All are welcome to join us. We enjoy talking and getting creative--we have a really good time together! Plus, we make the cards, always with the good intention of helping people in need, by donating all our profits to Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Please shop for your Mother's Day cards on our kiosks in the Narthex and in the Administration Building hallway.

**PAINTING CLASS - Wednesday, May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 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, May 9, 2019 -12:30PM.** Our monthly Bible study continues on Thursday, May 9, at 12:30PM in Al Lien Hall. All women of Nativity are invited to join us and we look forward to welcoming you. For more info, please contact Evelyn Lawlor at 352-835-7784.

**DAYS FOR GIRLS - Thursday, May 16, 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.

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE** - will be taking the ferry on Saturday, May 4. We will meet at Nativity at 10:00a.m. to carpool to Dunedin, where we'll take the 11:50a.m. Clearwater Ferry to Clearwater Beach Marina, a 30-45 minute ride. Round trip cost for seniors is \$12, \$16 for adults, and \$8 for children. From the marina, we'll walk 5 minutes to Crabby's Restaurant, 37 Causeway Blvd., for lunch and our meeting. Then a little beach shopping or finding a place to sit and enjoy the view of the inter-coastal, until we catch the 3:15p.m. return ferry. If your carpool driver leaves Dunedin soon after return arrival, you will be back at Nativity by 5:30p.m. or 5:45p.m. If anyone wishes to join us on this adventure, please call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918 ASAP, as seating is limited.

## **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. 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.

**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.

## **FELLOWSHIP — PATTEN FROM PATTI**

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***

## MARCH 2019 Financial Report from the Financial Secretary.

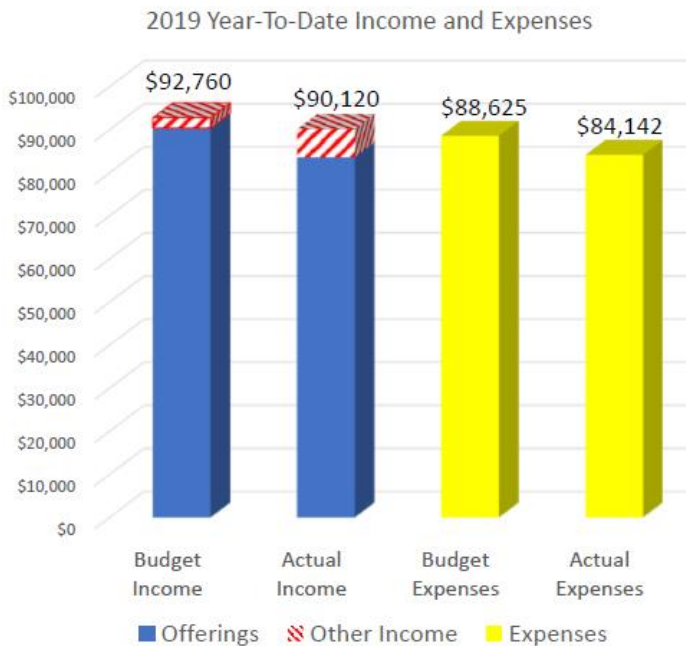
**GIVING:** Overall income for the operating budget has made progress from last month due to Lenten donations and one-time donations; nonetheless, our envelope giving is still much less than expected (\$7000 less). Through the vigilance of our Treasurer, expenses have been held down by \$4500 making the lower giving manageable for now.

In the future, NLC will need more giving during the second quarter to help Nativity stay solvent through the lean-giving summer months when many of our congregants leave. Please consider increasing your contributions to the operating fund now to help make ends meet.

And, for those leaving, please consider signing up for Simply Giving, a program that automatically takes funds from an account you designate, in order to keep your giving current. See today's bulletin insert, Jean Drach or our website: [nlcww.org](http://nlcww.org) for information.

**ATTENDANCE:** Cumulative Sunday attendance remains the same as March 2018 although this year, March had five Sundays and last year, four. (Neither Lenten Services nor Ash Wednesday attendance figures are included in the totals as historically, only Sunday worship is recorded and analyzed.) For more information, email [jane.henkel@nlcww.org](mailto:jane.henkel@nlcww.org).

--Jane Henkel, 2019 Financial Secretary



Questions: [jane.henkel@nlcww.org](mailto:jane.henkel@nlcww.org)



## **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](mailto: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

### **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**

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

**MOTHER'S DAY—Sunday, May 12, 2019**



**GRAND OPENING - PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE'S HELP CENTER, Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 10:00AM - 2:00PM.** Ribbon cutting at 12:00 noon, refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served. 1396 Kass Circle, Spring Hill.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST – Tuesday, May 21, 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.



The family of Thomas Cooke would sincerely like to thank everyone at Nativity Lutheran Church for all the cards, kind words and prayers we received during our time of sorrow. May the love of Christ be with you all.

Respectfully submitted, Lu Ann Cooke



## **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](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.

## **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 **June** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com), and to Evelyn Galli via email [evgalli@bcany.com](mailto:evgalli@bcany.com) by **May 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)

## May Birthdays

Joan Beals	5/1
Muriel Bishop	5/1
June Heinecke	5/2
Roselind Rosten	5/4
Taelor Hughes	5/5
Marie Hamilton	5/6
Gary Kopitzke	5/7
Kim Mehan-Conklin	5/7
Cherylann Schneider	5/7
Eleanor Hockings	5/8
Lonora Smith	5/9
Irma Haig	5/11
Joan Marceau	5/12
Rose Dubendorf	5/13
Linda Wagner	5/13
Joyce Colombo	5/14
Sandie Bates	5/15
Russ Colombo	5/16
Alma Luoma	5/17
Judith Nelson	5/18
Ellee Simons	5/18
Ian Rogers	5/19
Sara Zybell	5/19
Lynda Bohn	5/21
Susan Nordstrom	5/21
John Capell	5/22
Richard Sander	5/22
Ginger Wielk	5/22
Larry Fortner	5/23
Joan Lombardo	5/24
Phyllis Olsson	5/24



Lillie Maye Gauthier	5/26
Winona Binns	5/27
Chestley Merritt	5/27
Alice Seeholzer	5/28
Monika Brennan	5/29
Connie Chase	5/29
Linda Russo	5/29
Ruth Edwards	5/30
Julie Hopkins	5/30
Irene Froehlich	5/31

## May Weddings

William and Renee Desilets	5/3
Jack and Connie Chase	5/7
Bob and Cherylann Schneider	5/17
Doug and Sharon Johnson	5/19
Paul and Karen Chipko	5/22
Dan and Lyn Derenski	5/24
Nicholas and Doris Daley	5/25
Larry and Laura Fortner	5/26
Ahmecc and Ivette Torres	5/30
John and Lorraine Dobbe	5/31

