



Happenings at NLC

August 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

AUGUST 3 - SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

"FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: LESSONS FROM ESTHER"

Coffee available at 8:45AM, and ends by 12:00PM.

No lunch will be served.

WOMEN OF NATIVITY (WON)

School Supply Project

Donations accepted until August 12th

Assembly of the bags on August 12th at 11:00AM

Upcoming Events

August 7 - Evangelism/Greeter Meeting

August 8 - WON luncheon at Timber
Pines

August 12 - WON Board Meeting

August 16 - Friendship Circle Dinner/
Dance

August 19 - Council Meeting

August 20 - Men's Breakfast

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



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Wachee, FL 34613 • 352-597-1456 •
www.nlcww.org

LETTER FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Can you believe that we are starting the month of August? As a child growing up in the countryside of Upstate New York, August was one of the hottest months and we always looked forward to afternoon dips in the community pool. Recently, I saw many kids sliding on a waterslide and cooling off at the end of our Vacation Bible School (VBS) and I wanted to jump in and have fun too.

This month, I want to highlight what was accomplished in July with our VBS program. Donna Olsen has volunteered for several years to organize VBS for our church and she graciously did so again this year for the week of July 15 - 19. The theme this year was *SuperHeroes for Jesus*, and based on the participation during the week it was very popular. Donna was able to bring together a long list of youth and adult volunteers that made the week a success. I'm sure that Donna is grateful for all those who volunteered to: prepare and plan for the VBS, decorate the church, help with registration, lead activities including crafts, music, Bible study, and recreation, lead groups of children, provide audio-visual support, help with the waterslide, and serve meals every day. I'm sure I haven't hit all the things that people helped to accomplish. Most importantly, I know that Donna was extremely grateful for the individuals who helped to cover the major VBS costs by contributing with Thrivent grants. At a time when we are trying to watch expenses, Thrivent projects are a very real blessing.

As you can imagine, Nativity Lutheran Church was abuzz during VBS week. We had more than 70 children come through the door into Al Lien Hall each morning to sign in for activities. They were grouped into four classes according to their ages and this year they were placed into SuperHero Leagues: Mercy, Peace, Faith and Justice. These groups moved from one activity center to another around the church and spent a 30-minute session at each station. I can tell you from my experience with the music center that the children were a joy to work with and seemed to be very engaged with the activities that were presented. The youth that assisted the adult leaders were extremely helpful and helped to make everything move smoothly. The youth were asked to help serve lunch to all the younger kids at lunch time and that was such a blessing.

I am so grateful that our church offers VBS every year. To some it may seem like it is just a baby-sitting service, but I can tell you that there were children who learned Bible stories this week and could tell you what the story was and what it meant. There were children who came because their parents had just moved to the area and grandma found our church through our website. It is good to know that things we have put in place to reach out into the world are showing fruit. Sometimes we only get to plant seeds and water them. Praise God when we can see some seeds grow and begin to blossom. May we continue to see and experience the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst!

On behalf of the church, I want to say a big thank you to Donna and all the volunteers who helped her make VBS a huge success this year! I want to encourage everyone to think of ways that you might be able to help next year. By working together, we accomplished great things.

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.

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. The "Host" position is being created so we can be more receptive to visitors and accommodating to members. 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.

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 - VANCO Payment Solutions

Financial and Environmental Stewardship – A Greener Approach to Giving.

Churches, because of their heavy weekly check volumes, were among the early organizations to embrace electronic giving as a way to automate contributions. Today, electronic giving in all its forms provides convenience for frequent check writers and donation consistency for churches.

A less frequently discussed benefit of electronic giving is its positive impact on the environment. An enormous amount of natural resources are consumed in the production, transportation, processing and disposal of paper checks. That's why paying bills electronically always ranks high on any list of actions an individual can take to improve the environment. The trend toward electronic payments has already produced more than a 50% decline in check use since the year 2000.

As you consider the payment method you use to make your regular offering, we hope that you will think about the unique connection between financial stewardship and environmental stewardship.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

After a number of years discussing stewardship in my churches, I believe that when many of us pick up a document from the Stewardship Committee, we often think the same thing: "Oh no. The Stewardship Committee. I wonder how much they are going to ask for now?"

While that comment may be true in some churches, it certainly is not true here at Nativity. How then do we think about stewardship here? Let us start with a definition of stewardship. Stewardship means taking care of something that is important to us or dear to us. When we're talking about stewardship we mean taking care of our church. Our church of course includes everything we see around us when we worship together, our staff, fellow members, and persons and things we don't see - persons who may be absent on a particular day, and things that are part of the building, such as roof repairs and air conditioning.

Our church means much more than just our building and fellow members. Our church means our faith that brings us to worship in His house. It is our belief that we receive salvation through the risen Lord. It is that faith that has guided us Lutherans for the past 500 years. Stewardship means all those things we do to promote and grow our community of faith.

Within Nativity Lutheran Church we nurture that faith through the many ministries we support as part of our worship, as part of our community outreach, and as part of our support for one another in this congregation. And those ministries are supported and maintained by us. It has been estimated that 90% of the activities that are done to support any church is completed by volunteers from within the congregation.

If you were to look at a chart of our church you would notice that there are over 55 different ministries. Each of those ministries reflects something we do for our members, for this building, for our worship, for others, for our community of faith. Some of these ministries require large numbers of persons. Some require special skills, some require special abilities or experience. In our church most require just a willingness to invest time and a smile.

Yes, I admit that it takes money to keep all these ministries going. . . .and lots of it.

But this message is not about finances nor to ask for your money. This message is to ask you for something your money can't buy: your commitment. That is, a commitment to being a steward of our faith by increasing your stewardship of ministry.

As we've emphasized before, summer is a very difficult time for all churches in Florida. So many members head north that it is often very difficult to carry on our ministry work. As you certainly expect, financial support also drops off in the summer. Now is

when we need your commitment. This article is to ask for your commitment. A commitment to continuing stewardship of our church throughout the difficult summer months. A commitment to our faith -- the faith that has endured the Lutheran Church for 500 years. And a commitment to the ministries of our church so that Nativity Lutheran Church will be part of and the start of the next 500 years of Carrying Light to the World.

OUTREACH

MISSION OF THE MONTH — LUTHER SPRINGS

Did you know that we have our very own retreat just a couple hours away? Looking for spiritual inspiration with a touch of nature...then Luther Springs is a place to experience. It is our featured mission of the month that includes fun, faith and friends. Luther Springs offers a place to stay in cabins or campsites for weekend or week retreats and is known for its beautiful scenery, outdoor prayer and meditation areas plus serene, peaceful walking paths to the lake. It is also a place to spend a day - just a nice drive away. Some ways to "Get Inspired" at Luther Springs are retreat offerings for men; women; a Grands weekend for grandparents and grandkids; Quilting/Creating; Family Camps, Youth Lock-ins; Confirmation Faith Formation; plus time to connect with your group. We challenge you to explore what Luther Springs has to offer and give to a local, spiritual retreat. For more information about specific offerings and dates, go to www.luthersprings.org to browse information about Luther Springs.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

ADULT FORUM - GOSPEL IN LIFE: Sundays 9:45AM - 10:45AM (Winemiller Hall), August 4, 11, 18 & 25. Explore how the gospel can change your heart, community, and how to live the gospel out of everyday life.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will resume again in September.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 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.

W.O.N. BOARD MEETING — Tuesday, August 12th at 10:00AM. All women of nativity are welcome.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR LOCAL CHILDREN

Last year we collected school supplies for ELCA worldwide. 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 continue to collect supplies right up to August 12th at 11:00AM, when we begin filling the bags. All are welcome to come help fill the bags. Any questions, please call Doreen Davis at 352-263-4750.

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, August 14 & 21- 12:30PM-3PM.

Cards R Us will make cards on the second and third Wednesdays in August, on the 14th and the 21st. All are welcome to join us having fun, being creative, talking and laughing. Yes, we manage them all at the same time! Cards will be made from your donated, used greeting cards in Al Lien Hall from 12:30PM-3:00PM. Our mission gives all profits from the cards to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help those with one-time emergencies. Thank you, Nativity family, for your continued support. For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

PAINTING CLASS - Wednesday, August 7, 14, 21 & 28, 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 - AUGUST 16. Friendship Circle will enjoy dinner and The Boogie Bros Band at VFW Post 10209, 14736 Edward R Noll Dr. (off Anderson Snow Rd.), Spring Hill 34609. Choose the fish fry dinner or order off the menu. Then stay to listen and dance to the popular Boogie Bros playing an eclectic mix of rock, R&B, funk, southern rock, disco, Latin, blues and Motown. A volunteer will go early, by 4:30PM, to stake out seats. Others will meet at Nativity at 5:15PM to carpool. No cover charge. Entertainment begins at 7:00PM. Call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918 for information, and for head count.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Tuesday, August 20, 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.



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.

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.

THE NATIVITY CUP GOLF TOURNAMENTS will resume starting on September 15, 2019, at Timber Pines.

They will be held at 2:00PM on the 3rd Sunday of each month in September, October, November, January, February & March.

Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex a few weeks prior to each event. Information can be obtained from Jim Runyan at 609-385-6679, or see him on Sundays in the choir.

We encourage all to sign up as we have a lot of fun both with the golf & the dinners afterward. Skill in golf is not needed.

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The financial news for June is good. We had five Sundays last month and that increased our giving to over \$2000 more than expected. NLC's Other Envelope Giving (i.e. special holiday giving) and Other Giving categories (Thrivent Funds and Facility usage fees, to name a few) has also been much over expectations. Together, NLC is making strides towards balancing the budget.

With expenses being held to \$3000 less than the budget predicted in June, we have helped to decrease the overall deficit. Bravo to all those who have given!!!

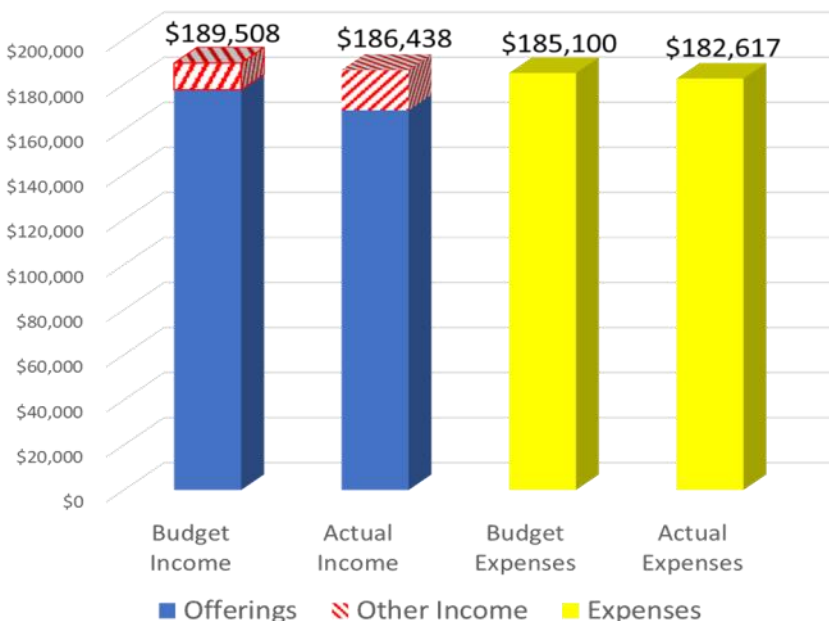
Attendance is just a little below expectation. NLC had 261 worshippers Year to Date in 2019 vs 260 in 2018. This is GREAT news!!!

Please continue to pray for your church and its financial health. From my standpoint, looks like it's working.

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

August Birthdays

Timothy Cotter	8/2
Connie Wenzrycki	8/2
Jared Gould	8/3
Peggy Sanders	8/3
Kenneth Strey	8/3
Michael Brennan	8/5
Joan Herr	8/6
Hailey Patterson	8/6
Linda Thelan	8/6
Candice Kochounian	8/9
Mary Smart	8/9
Zachery Burchhardt	8/11
Victoria Page	8/13
Jane Henkel	8/14
Nancy Salzbach	8/14
Beury Simons	8/15
Claude Major	8/16
Mary Holmes	8/17
Jean Drach	8/18
Nicholas Daley	8/20



Ian MacLean	8/20
Cheryl Wolfe	8/20
Elizabeth Deon	8/22
Kristine Kopitzke	8/22
Robert Oliver Sr.	8/22
Diane Dietz	8/23
David Ennes	8/24
Karin Glessner	8/25
Gregory Massey	8/25
Giuseppe Mattei	8/25
Patti Cotter	8/27
Donald Taylor	8/28

August Wedding Anniversaries

Kathleen & Arthur Olsen	8/6
Michele & Robert Oliver Sr.	8/8
Judith & John Seidl	8/12
Judith & Gilbert Dietz	8/14
Julie & Gary Hopkins	8/15
Judith & James Nelson	8/18
Margaret & Stephen King	8/19
Gloria & Al Wright	8/19
Dale & Charles Hughes	8/21
Carol & Kendall White	8/21
Karen & Clarence Crawford	8/22
Eleanor & William Hockings	8/22



Diane & Art Alt	8/24
Sandy & Guy Peeters	8/24
Susan & Donald Taylor	8/31