



# Happenings at NLC

April 2020

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

Under these unprecedented circumstances, our services will be online until further notice.

- Palm Sunday Worship - April 5
- Maundy Thursday - April 9
- A Good Friday Experience: Contemplative and Sensory Prayer Stations - April 10
- Easter Sunday Eucharistic Celebration - April 12

### Upcoming Events

**AS OF APRIL 1ST FOOD PANTRY IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.** All church activities are canceled until further notice. Please watch for weekly announcements sent by the church office.

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.



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# **What's Happening and Who's Doing What, When!!!**

By Dan Derenski, Council President

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know your Council is hard at work to keep our congregation updated and informed during this difficult time. On March 15, Council held an emergency meeting to deal with both the resignation of our President Will Schantl, and to plan for how we would address the effects of the Corona Virus situation.

As Vice President for the past 2 years, I volunteered to serve as President through the remainder of this year. I am still working fulltime, but I have the greatest confidence in my fellow Council members, and know that we can be an effective working unit and meet the business needs of NLC.

This Council's effectiveness was clearly demonstrated at our emergency meeting. We made decisions and defined a plan. Individuals stepped up to take on the necessary tasks to implement that plan. We continue to communicate regularly through emails, phone calls, and teleconferencing.

Our first concerns were the health of our congregation, the termination of services, and the many who gather on the property. Tasks included notifying the many users of our facility, contacting all our members and friends by phone and providing them with information regarding what and how NLC would be handling this situation. I want to thank the 8 volunteers who made those phone calls before the upcoming Wednesday night dinner and Lenten service. This rush effort was to minimize any inconvenience as it related to attending service or food preparation.

We have volunteers working on the recording of our services for multiple medias, preparing emails, setting up links to the website, and mailing “The Communicator”, our quarterly magazine, to those not connected electronically. Property is ensuring our custodian is cleaning and sanitizing on a regular basis. The Food Pantry has restructured their schedule to stay open 2 days, and only allowing 1 shopper in the building at time. \*Unfortunately, the virus pandemic has worsened to the point of having to stop that operation for now. Even food donations are suspended until further notice. Our visitation ministry is in contact with our members who previously received personal visits. In addition, there are many members who are reaching out to check on each other.

Our Music Director, Bell Choir Directors, Administrative Assistant, and Nursery Attendant, have voluntarily either reduced their hours or have refused to take their compensation during this time of crisis. Please take the time to let them know how very much we appreciate their sacrifice. I ask for your continued support by sending your weekly offerings to the church during this time. This will assist us in meeting NLC’s fiscal responsibilities.

*“Remember, every situation has a bright side. It just depends on your attitude and how you look at a situation. Be wise” and remember to love, be supportive and pray for one another.*

# SPIRITUAL LIFE

**Under these unprecedented circumstances, our services will be online until further notice.**

- Palm Sunday Worship - April 5
- Maundy Thursday - April 9
- A Good Friday Experience: Contemplative and Sensory Prayer Stations - April 10
- Easter Sunday Eucharistic Celebration - April 12

**The following meetings/gatherings are canceled for the month of April:**

- Soul Seekers, Altar Guild, Midday Prayer, Choir, Handbell Choir, Bulletin Folders, Weekend Blessings, Stewardship Committee



On both Thursday, April 2 and Sunday, April 5, from 10am to 12pm, members of Council will give out palms to anyone who wants to stop by the church. All CDC precautions will be taken. Just drive through the drop off area of the church entrance, roll down your window, and a gloved hand will hand you your palm. At the same time, we will be collecting offerings for Lent and Palm Sunday.

# OUTREACH

## **MISSION OF THE MONTH - PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE AND WEEKEND BLESSINGS.**

Weekend Blessings is our outreach mission of the month. It was designed to provide food for school children who otherwise might go hungry on the weekends. It has been found that nutritious food on the weekends correlates to better student achievement. Our church is one of many who partner with People Helping People. In fact, this is the largest backpack program in Hernando Co. Our partner school is Pine Grove Elementary, and we service approximately 120 students.

This averages out to over 3,800 meals per year. Our primary funding is from PHP, but we also rely on monetary donations from individuals or organizations. We count on these funds to purchase jars of peanut butter, and rolling backpacks for families with five or more students in the family. Please know we greatly appreciate all the support that everyone at Nativity has given us in the past. If you would like to help us support these children, please consider making a donation by mailing in, or dropping off a check, and marking it April's Mission of the Month. You can also give online at [nlcww.org](http://nlcww.org).

## **FOOD PANTRY IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

Food donations will no longer be accepted. Watch for future announcements as to when donations will be accepted again.

**TROMPETER FUND GRANTS AWARDED** - The Mission Endowment Committee has awarded grants from the David and Dorothy Marie Trompeter Endowment Fund for 2020 in the amount of \$58,550.00. The following were recipients of this year's awards: Lighthouse for the Blind, Holy Cross Food Pantry, NLC Communications Team, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Days for Girls, Weeki Wachee Winds, NLC Food Pantry, VBS, Homosassa Elementary School, Resurrection House, People Helping People, NLC A/V Equipment, Pasco Kids First, Weekend Blessings Program, Women of Nativity County Court Project, and Crescent of Hernando. The details of the awards are listed on a sheet posted 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. The Fund is completely separate from our church's budget.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)**

**The following meetings/gatherings are canceled for the month of April:**

- Youth Group Activities, Sunday School, Confirmation Class

## **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.

**The following meetings/gatherings are canceled for the month of April:**

- WON Board Meeting, Painting Class, Friendship Circle, Cards R Us, Mary Joy Circle, Days for Girls, Sarah Circle, Crafty Ladies, Fellowship Committee, Men's Breakfast

**COMMUNITY BAND AT NATIVITY** - the Weeki Wachee Winds band will resume again in September.

**TRINKETS & TREASURES (FORMERLY JUNKTIQUE.**

We are still looking to have this fundraising event on Saturday, October 17 (set-up will be Friday, Oct. 16). We will be working on arranging for storage space, as well as what types of donations we will accept, in the coming weeks. With all of us staying home now, we probably are looking for things to do. This may be the perfect time to "clean house", and put aside items that you are looking to donate. We know we will be accepting dishes, glassware, small appliances, jewelry (other items to be determined once we can get back together to discuss). In the meantime, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119, or Pat Runyan at 609-335-6427.

**PATTER FROM PATTI**

We know we are all in an unusual health situation at this time. Because of that, we will be cancelling the Mystery Dinner for April 27th . Hopefully over the summer all will go back to normal, and we will have one in September.

We thank you for your support, and hope you have a healthy summer.

*Patti Cotter*

# FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY

## February 2020 Financial Secretary Report

**Attendance:** Again, Nativity's attendance is trending slightly downward from this time last year--254 in 2020 vs 271 in 2019 average weekly attendance. This change cannot be attributed to anything specific.

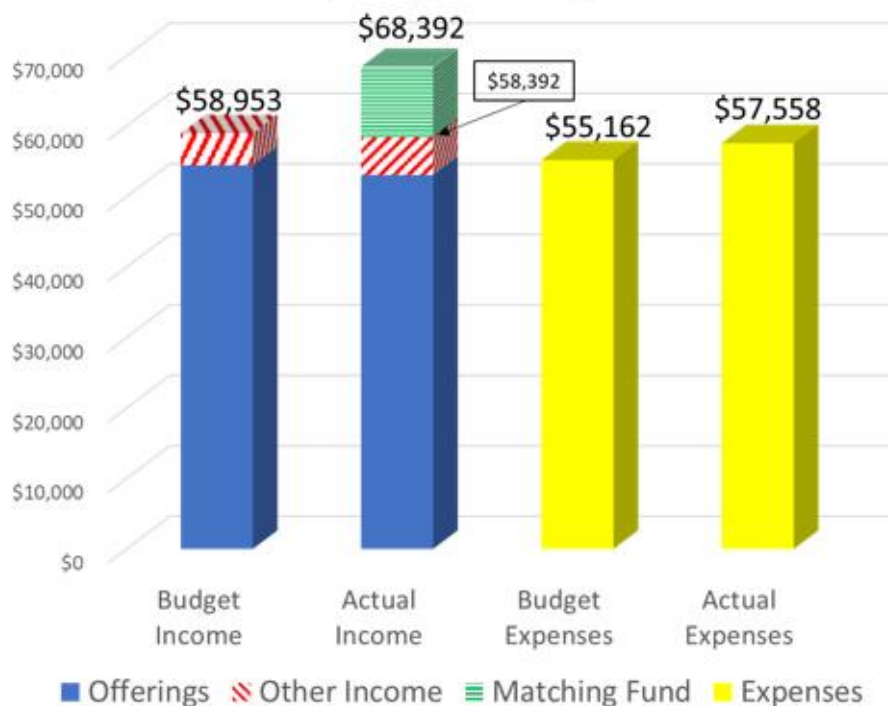
**Income:** February's giving income was a bit less than what was predicted, mostly due to Ash Wednesday giving. Last year, the beginning of Lent started in the end of February and this year it was March 1<sup>st</sup>. With our matching funds we are overall \$9,500 ahead.

**Expenses:** Expenses remain steady from last month, and continue to be \$2,500 over due to Property & Safety spending from January.

**Future Giving and Expenses:** During this global emergency, the Treasurer and I will be closely monitoring expenses and giving. Certain expenses such as salaries, mortgage, insurance, and utilities, must be paid; we will evaluate other expenses as they occur. Please remember to keep up with your giving so ALL bills can be paid on time.



## 2020 Year-To-Date Income and Expenses (Through February)



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

## REMINDERS

### NEW (TEMPORARY) OFFICE HOURS:

**Monday - Friday: 9a - 12p**

**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 by **April 15**.

**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.

## **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
Sue Margagliotti	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 Zakel	04/16
Martin Salzbach	04/18
Linda Rizzo	04/19
Giacomo Mattei	04/20
Darla Strey	04/20
Jim Christensen	04/21
James Stuck	04/21
Charlotte Downing	04/24
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

