



# Happenings at NLC

October 2020

Monthly Newsletter

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

Worship Services TBA

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

## TRINKETS AND TREASURES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

9:00AM TO 3:00PM



### Upcoming Events

October 4 - World Communion Sunday  
October 4 - Global Mission Sunday  
October 4 - Feast of St. Francis of Assisi  
October 19 - WON Board Meeting  
October 25 - Reformation Sunday  
November 1 - All Saint's Day  
November 8 - Nativity 35th Anniversary

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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[www.nlcww.org](http://www.nlcww.org)

# Returning to In-Person Worship

Dear Parishioners,

The Nativity church council, the Property and Safety and the Worship and Music Committees have been working diligently to get us ready to reopen our sanctuary doors for in-person worship services. I have heard from many of you how ready you are to return to church, and I have also heard many who are still concerned about the virus and may not be ready at this time to return to an in-person service. I get it, and there is no judgment on my side on either group.

The church council had originally voted to return to church only when the whole State of Florida is declared to be in Phase 3. We seem to be diligent at observing the CDC Guidelines. We want to assure all of you that those guidelines will be strictly enforced for the love of neighbor once we reopen and worshipers will be gently directed on how to worship safely.

As of my writing, we have a tentative date in mind, but I am waiting until our protocol is finalized. Please stay tuned for more information to come in the near future.

In Christ's service,

Pr. Giuseppe

# SPIRITUAL LIFE

**While most meetings are canceled, there may be a request to meet by the ministry leader.**

**SOUL SEEKERS** - At this time the group will not meet until January 2021, but only after a re-evaluation of the current state of the pandemic. Questions please contact Michelle Mehan-Conklin at 727-267-1047, or email shelltbfb@hotmail.com.

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4** is a celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place on the first Sunday of every October that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. The tradition originated in the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in 1933, was adopted throughout the US Presbyterian Church in 1936, and subsequently spread to other denominations. In 1940 the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches) endorsed World Communion Sunday and began to promote it to Christian churches worldwide. (This text has been taken from [www.cute-calendar.com](http://www.cute-calendar.com)). For the past few years a procession of national flags has kicked off the celebration of World Communion Sunday. We will obviously miss the festive procession this year as we are still worshipping virtually, but we will still pray for the common witness of the universal Church.

**GLOBAL MISSION SUNDAY is celebrated throughout the ELCA.**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>** (the first Sunday in October), has been set aside by Bishop Suarez to bring attention to Global Mission, our Companion Churches and seminary, and our partnership work together.

**WHY?** Projects and programs of the Synod's Global Mission Committee are not funded by the Florida Bahamas Synod budget. The Global Mission Committee seeks to raise awareness and money for supporting projects presented to us by our companion relationships.

**WHO?** The Global Mission Special Projects fund supports four Companion Churches – Cuba, Haiti, Guyana, Suriname, and the Union Theological College of the West Indies in Jamaica.

**WHERE** will the money raised go?

- To provide for bringing companion church representatives to Synod Assembly and the Lake Yale WELCA Conference.
- Help to cover the costs for the tri-annual Caribbean Consultation.
- Support the International Companion Program that brings a youth from a companion church to attend ELCA Youth Gatherings.

Cover projects that do not fall under a specific companion church category or do not have a designated funding source.

Global Mission nurtures the ELCA's world engagement through the theology and practice of accompaniment by walking together with our global companions. Our work together has a multi-faceted approach to mission, from sending missionaries and personnel, to offering grants and scholarships designed to strengthen global church leadership and to support the ministries of companions.

We build on the capacity of our Lutheran companion churches in areas related to:

- Theological education
- Leadership development
- Sustainable development
- Evangelical witness
- Global advocacy
- Disaster response
- Global health

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together. Walking together we achieve things on a scale and scope that we could never do otherwise.

## **REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25**

Reformation Day, the anniversary of the day Martin Luther is said to have posted his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany (October 31, 1517), is later identified by Protestants as the beginning of the Reformation. The European Lutheran territorial churches first commemorated the Reformation on various days, among them the anniversary of Luther's birth (November 10), his death (February 18), and presentation of the Augsburg Confession (June 25). The centennial celebrations of 1617 focused attention on October 31. The liturgical color for the celebration is red.

## **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 - ALL SAINT'S DAY**

*Let the office know if you have had a loved one pass away during the last year (we have noted our members, so we are asking for non-members).*

**NLC'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE** - Listen to Nativity Lutheran's Sunday Worship Service every Sunday night at 6pm. Tune in to WZEU-FM 102.9 on your radio for a broadcast of this week's Sunday Service.

## **OUTREACH**

### **MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Please see the Global Mission Projects on the previous pages. If you would like to sponsor any of the world missions, please make your check out to Nativity Lutheran Church and indicate what mission project you would like to sponsor.

## **TROMPETER FUND GRANT FORMS AVAILABLE**

Applications for 2021 grants from the David Trompeter and Dorothy Marie Trompeter Endowment Fund are now available. The applications must be returned to the church office by December 31, 2020. Trompeter Fund grants are made to supplement “worthwhile ministries of Nativity Lutheran Church” and may not be used for ongoing budgeted programs or building programs of the church. The guideline rankings used for determining a grant include meeting human needs for food, water, and shelter; alleviating human trauma; religious education; and enriching the quality of life. Applications may be picked up in the church office or requested to be sent by mail by calling the office at 352-597-1456.

For questions about the grant process, please contact Carlan Helgeson of the Mission Endowment Committee at [cdhelgeson@gmail.com](mailto:cdhelgeson@gmail.com).

## **AN UPDATE FROM THE GLOBAL MISSION TABLE**

### **Global Mission Includes YOU!**

Through the Florida-Bahamas Synod's Global Mission Table, congregations and individuals have the opportunity to serve as a companion to these Global Mission partners: the Lutheran Church in Cuba, Guyana, Haiti and Suriname and the seminary in Jamaica. Just as we are "united as one" as a synod, Global Mission helps us to unite with ministries throughout the Caribbean Basin. Would you like to partner in this exciting work? To learn more, start by emailing Rev. Katie Carroll, Chair at [revkhc@gmail.com](mailto:revkhc@gmail.com).

Even in times of pandemic, we stay connected with our companions:

**SEMINARY IN JAMAICA** - Thanks to the generosity of many in the synod, a classroom at the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI) was refurbished and its technology was improved. The project is particularly timely, now that so much learning has moved online. Our own Nativity Lutheran Church Endowment Fund supported this project.

**CUBA and HAITI** - Both countries were hit hard by Tropical Storm Laura and needs are great. Global Mission is working with the church in Haiti to enhance its office management/bookkeeping, and also to install solar panels for reliable electricity. Congregations in the synod have also partnered with Global Mission in goat and seed projects for Haiti. Opportunities to accompany the Lutheran church in Cuba are great, yet current restrictions imposed by the US Government make it extremely difficult for churches to share resources. We remain in close contact with church leaders in Cuba as we seek ways to accompany them, and urge your prayers for a change in policy.



**GUYANA and SURINAME** - Once churches re-open more fully, Global Mission has projects in mind in the areas of education and training for these neighboring countries located along the northern border of South America.

Yes - Global Mission can include YOU, whether it means visiting when travel can resume, or partnering in meaningful ways from home. Meetings are online, and work can be done from where you are. Email Pastor Katie at [revkhc@gmail.com](mailto:revkhc@gmail.com) and she will help you get started.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)**

**CONFIRMATION CLASS:** Confirmands, classes have resumed on Fridays starting at 5:00 PM. The classes are held every Friday until the end of the year, and students are invited to connect via zoom. We will adjust for holidays as needed. Have with you, your Bible, writing material, and your copy of Luther's Small Catechism.

Duration: Every week on Friday until January 1, 2021.

Time: 5:00PM

Access the church calendar for log in link.

Meeting ID: 841 3986 9539; Passcode: 770125

One tap mobile : +19292056099, 84139869539#, 0#

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL** - suspended until further notice.

## **GOVERNMENT AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SOCIAL MESSAGE**

The ELCA Church Council has unanimously adopted a new social message: "[Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy](#)." For a printed copy of the document, please call the office at 800-638-3522. This project was called for at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, with an intention that it be ready to read before the election this fall. The social message explores how government is a gift from God that can also be abused and misused. It also delves into how we can view civic engagement as Lutherans.

## **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.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020** - The WON Board will meet in Winemiller Hall from 10:00AM - 12:00N to plan the annual Christmas Luncheon scheduled for December 5.

**CARDS R US - Wednesday, October 7 & 14- 12:30PM-3PM.**

Cards R Us will gather to make greeting cards from your used, donated cards on the first and second Wednesdays, October 7 and 14, 12:30-3:00, in Winemiller Hall. We can always use any children's cards you are willing to part with. All are welcome to join us. No experience necessary. Come join the fun and help raise funds for Pastor's Discretionary Fund while you're at it! We are social distancing. When you visit Nativity, shop our selection of Halloween 🎃 cards, as well as the usual Get Well, Happy Birthday, Sympathy, etc. For more information about this ministry, please call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE** - Vivian Deon is hosting her 6th Annual Friendship Circle Pool Party on Friday, October 9, beginning at 12:00PM. Saturday, October 10, will be the rain date. Location is in The Heather, at The Bluff's clubhouse shelter and pool on Nakoma Way. Everyone is asked to keep a safe distance, use sanitizer, and wash hands. Vivian will call Friendship Circle members to coordinate the potluck dishes to accompany her stuffed shells. And she says to wear a swimsuit! If anyone other than a Friendship Circle member would like to attend, contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918 for information. *P.S. Friendship Circle members, I know some of you are unable to attend, but am keeping you in the loop just in case you are able to join us.*

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

Crafty Ladies will meet on Fridays, 9:00AM-11:00AM. Coffee hour will not take place during this time. CDC guidelines will be followed. Questions? Call Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

**MARY JOY CIRCLE - Thursday, October 8, 2020-12:30PM** Our monthly Bible study continues on Thursday, October 10, 2019, at 12:30PM in Al Lien Hall. All women of Nativity are invited to join us for fellowship and bible study (led by Cam Martin). We look forward to welcoming you. For more information, please contact Evelyn Lawlor at 352-835-7784.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST - Tuesday, October 20, 2020 - 8:30AM.**

Please join us at **PERKINS RESTAURANT**, 4685 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 October 7th 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.



# SANCTUARY VIDEO PROJECT UPDATE

## WE MADE IT!

Thanks to the generosity of so many people in our Nativity family, we have met and exceeded the challenge goal for our Sanctuary Screen Project! Plans are underway to begin the electrical and engineering work to prepare for the installation of this new addition to our worship. Art Alt will be looking for people who are willing to learn how to operate the new system once it is in place. If you are interested in helping, please call the church office (352-597-1456) or speak to Art personally.



## FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY

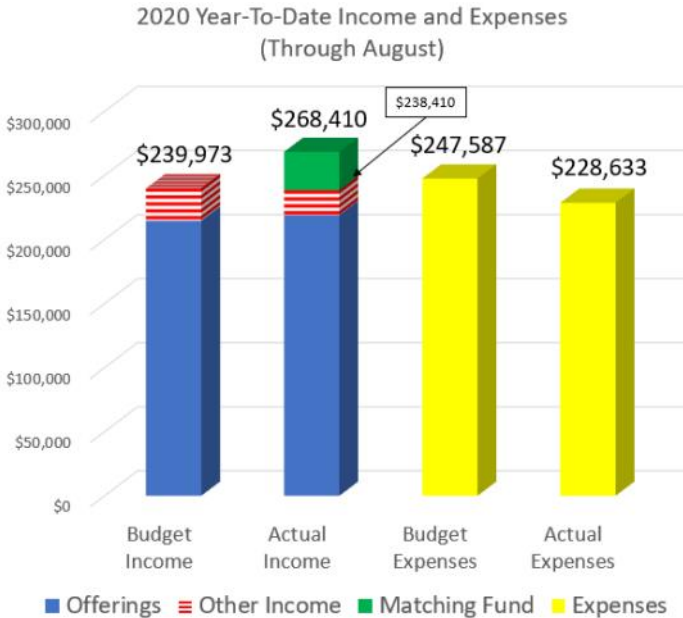
**Attendance:** August's on-line attendance dipped slightly from July's figures due to three Sundays with lower attendance than has been Nativity's norm. Those Sundays were August 2, 16 & 23. These anomalies cannot be accounted for; but, I suspect weather and/or vacations at this time of year may be the reasons.

**Income:** August's total income was on track for budget! Even without in-person worship, our congregants continued their giving by meeting their pledges for the month. This is an accomplishment to celebrate!

Please continue your faithful giving in order to keep Nativity on-track and on-budget.

**Expenses:** Expenses are well below budget due to lack of in-person worship. Building Maintenance continues, though, as maintaining our facility is a priority even during non-worship times.

**Questions:** Contact Jane Henkel at [jetgal55@gmail.com](mailto:jetgal55@gmail.com) for Income questions and Ev Galli Treasurer at [evgalli@bcany.com](mailto:evgalli@bcany.com) for expense questions.



## ***A SPECIAL THANK YOU***

THANK YOU to all the folks that remembered me on my 90th birthday. The drive thru was a joy to both Bob and me. It is great friends from our church and good neighbors that make it special.

God's richest blessings, Mary McDowall

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### ***Special Events Coming in November***

#### **Sunday, November 8**

Veterans will be honored

35th Anniversary of Nativity Lutheran  
Church (actual date is November 10)

#### **Thursday, November 26**

Have a blessed Thanksgiving. Give thanks for all your blessings this year and pray for those who struggle physically, spiritually, and socially.



**SAVE THE DATE**

***Special Events Coming in December***

**Sunday, December 6**

Congregational Meeting

**Tuesday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Service(s)

## REMINDERS

**OFFICE HOURS - Monday through Friday - 9AM-12N**

**FOOD PANTRY - Thursdays 9:30AM - 1:00PM**

**ZOOM ACCOUNT.** Nativity now has a Zoom account which can be used by any groups wanting to meet virtually. Even if someone in your group does not have a computer, they can still participate by dialing in (phone numbers are provided in the meeting details). If you wish to try a Zoom meeting, please contact the office (352-597-1456), and Linda will be more than happy to assist in setting it up.

**LOCK BOX INSTALLED.** For your convenience, we have installed a lock box outside Al Lien Hall door (next to the playground). This will make it more convenient if you wish to drop off your donation, or any mail for the church, in the secured lock box, which is checked daily.

**DOOR BELL.** Also for your convenience, so you don't have to go through the courtyard gates, a door bell has been installed on the Al Lien Hall door.

**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 **November** newsletter, please submit it to the office by **October 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)

# October Birthdays

William Hockings	10/1
Barbara Crisanti	10/4
Darinka Lienau	10/8
Susan Taylor	10/8
David Salomaki	10/9
Jo Anne Boggus	10/13
Lyle Condo	10/14
John Healy	10/14
Evelyn Lawlor	10/15
Germaine Major	10/15
Karen Chipko	10/18
Mark Hengesh	10/18
Sharon Schroeder	10/18
Vita Condo	10/23
Karen Flom	10/24



Donna Colombo	10/26
Judith Seidl	10/26
Nancy Trott	10/27
Edward Lewis	10/28
Evelyn Galli	10/28
Penny Morman	10/29
Laura Nelson	10/30
Marilyn Bruden	10/31
Laura Fortner	10/31

# October Wedding Anniversaries

Mary & Robert McDowall	10/1
Terri & Michael Breida	10/5
Elaine & Randy Malone	10/6
Germaine & Claude Major	10/8
June & Buddy Kristoferson	10/17
Darlene & James Christensen	10/19
Joan & Wayne Rasper	10/25
Marlene & Joseph Chinnici	10/26

