



Happenings at NLC

November 2020

Monthly Newsletter

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

Worship Services 9:30AM

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

**35th Anniversary of Nativity Lutheran Church
November 10, 1975 - 2020**

**Happy Thanksgiving
November 26, 2020**

Thanks be to God



Upcoming Events

- November 8 - Pastor Roen giving the sermon (pre-recorded)
- November 16 - Council Meeting, 7:00PM
- November 26 - office and food pantry closed
- December 13 - Congregational Meeting

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

THE BEGINNINGS OF NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The vision that was to become Nativity Lutheran Church had its beginning in 1975 when the Lutheran Church in America purchased 10 acres of pine-covered land in Weeki Wachee, Florida, to be used for a future church. It wasn't until 1985, however, that Pastor Paul Winemiller was called as a Mission Development Pastor and assigned the task of creating a congregation and building a church on the newly acquired land.

Pastor Winemiller began his ministry by knocking on doors throughout Spring Hill and Weeki Wachee, introducing himself and inviting those whom he met to become a part of his mission church. Over the next several months he visited 4,000 homes and wore out four pairs of shoes as he compiled a list of about 325 people who had expressed an interest in the new congregation.

The first church service was held on Nov 10, 1985, at West Hernando Middle School (now Fox Chapel Middle School) on Deltona Blvd. One year later, on Nov 9, 1986, one hundred people came together to sign the charter for the new congregation, and Nativity Lutheran Church officially began its ministry. The Bishop of Florida, the Rev. Dr. Royal Yount, was present at the Service of Organization.

On January 1, 1988, the Lutheran Church in America merged with the American Lutheran Church and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and Nativity became a part of this new church. Nativity is part of the Florida-Bahamas Synod within the ELCA.

The Early Years

Shortly after the charter was signed, the congregation purchased five acres of land from the synod, appointed a building committee, and began the task of planning for the construction of a church home. A groundbreaking was held on June 19, 1988, and nine months later, the church building was ready for occupancy. The new structure was 8000 square feet in size and cost \$580,000 to build. The sanctuary had seating for 200 in the nave and 25 in the choir section. Glass doors at the rear of the sanctuary could be opened to allow overflow into the narthex (now the youth room) and the conference room (now the library). Also included in the new building were a pastor's office, a small secretary's office, a nursery, and a fellowship hall.

The first worship service in the new sanctuary was held on March 5, 1989, with 135 people in attendance. The Dedication Service was held on April 16, 1989, with Bishop Laverne Franzen delivering the sermon.

Pastor Winemiller announced his retirement in March 1992, and he was succeeded by Pastor Vicki Johanson, who remained until the summer of 1994 when she left to become a college chaplain.

In July 1996 Nativity installed its third Pastor, the Rev. Dr. William Roen.

Into the 21st Century

The young congregation continued to grow into the latter part of the decade, and by 1999 it was apparent that a larger sanctuary was needed. Another Building Committee was appointed, and construction planning began once again. Groundbreaking for the new building was held on April 16, 2000, and the cornerstone was laid one year later in April of 2001. The Building Committee secured \$500,000 in pledges towards the \$1.2M construction project, and fundraisers held by the choir generated \$62,000 for the purchase of a new organ.

The new 6,400 sq ft sanctuary provides seating for 350. The stained glass windows in the new sanctuary were reinstalled from the old sanctuary, and the pews in the rear section of the new sanctuary also come from the original building.

A time capsule sealed behind the cornerstone of the new sanctuary awaits opening at an unspecified later date.

Pastor Roen left Nativity in May 2003 to accept a call at the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Savannah, GA, and the congregation once again began the search for a new pastor. Pastor Kristin Wee became Nativity's fourth pastor on February 1, 2005.

Nativity celebrated its 25th Anniversary throughout the year 2011, culminating with an Anniversary Service on November 13th in which Bishop Edward Benoway of the Florida-Bahamas Synod was the guest preacher.

Pastor Wee retired in August 2013, and Pastor Giuseppe Mattei began his call as Nativity's fifth pastor on March 1, 2015.

More information on the history of Nativity can be found on our website: nlcww.org.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

ALL SAINTS DAY, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

On this day we remember all our dearly departed family and friends.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020 — 9:30AM

November 10th will be Nativity's 35th anniversary!

At the November 8th service the Rev. Dr. William Roen will be giving the sermon which was pre-recorded. Rev. Roen was Nativity's third pastor from 1996 - 2003. You can also find out more about the history of Nativity on our website: www.nlcww.org.

Please turn in your pledge card by November 8th. Your financial pledge will help our ministry plans.

ALTAR GUILD – NOVEMBER . 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 Suzanne Chelf at 352-684-7329.

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 week's Sunday Service. If you are interested in sponsoring one of the services broadcast on WZEU in memory or honor of someone, the cost is \$25. Place your donation in a green envelope and mark it WZEU and put it in the offering plate.

NEW OPPORTUNITY TO SEE WORLD-FAMOUS PASSION PLAY

The world-famous Oberammergau Passion Play, held every ten years, was postponed this past summer because of the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. Its once-every-decade performance has been rescheduled for 2022. Dr. Carlan Helgeson is hosting a ten-day tour to experience this dramatic portrayal of Jesus' life and death and to visit many European capital cities. The tour dates are June 29 through July 8, 2022. Cities to be visited include Munich, Innsbruck, Regensburg, Prague, Dresden, Leipzig and Berlin. Air travel to and from gateway cities, first-class lodging, two buffet meals per day, and local transportation are all included as well as the hard-to-get Passion Play tickets. We have people in our group leaving from airports around the country. If you are interested in a brochure or more information, please contact Carlan at cdhelgeson@gmail.com or 352-686-3367. Brochures are also available in the church office.

OUTREACH

MISSION OF THE MONTH - ANGEL TREE

It starts with a gift and leads to lives transformed through Jesus Christ!! And that is what it is all about, one small gift, one story of Jesus, and one loving smile. Makes one small child feel loved. The year 2020 has been a difficult one for many. Just think of the child who has one or maybe both of his or her parents in jail. No visits, no good night kisses. We have applied for the 35 children again this year. Our plan is to have a Christmas party on December 12 with all the fixings and to make this year their best. Please be so kind to take an envelope off the Angel Tree in the narthex, and place your donation in the offering plate.

Thank you for your continued support for Prison Fellowship.

Linda Russo

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.

THRIVENT MEMBER NEWS

Dear Thrivent Members, just a reminder about choice dollars. You may be eligible to donate these dollars towards any organization of your choice, but Nativity will be happy to be a recipient. Call Thrivent to ask if you have choice dollars to donate at 1-800-847-4836.

If you have an action team project still available, you can use it for Nativity’s Food Pantry to fill a bag of food for a family at Thanksgiving or Christmas. Any questions, please call Bonnie Kuester at 352-596-8548 or Ernie Horeis at 352-666-7584.

Resurrection House Mission, Inc.

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Serving the mind, body & spirit of the community



October 9, 2020

Nativity Lutheran Church of Weeki Wachee
6363 Commercial Way
Weeki Wachee FL 34613

Dear Church:

Thank you for the contribution and yes we missed the shoe buying first time in 35+ years that we missed this event.


God Bless you for being faithful we realize that no funding is there for most churches, last month we sent the monies that went to the Synod for new missions that our people had given to the church from January to march I believe it was \$800.00, then covid-19 hit and no more funds came from our members. So if it were not for what churches and persons give we could not pay the bills, yet between Resurrection House and Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc., we have been able to serve the community with what they have needed.

We have distributed 269,000 pounds of food, that we've kept count of and many pounds that distributed and did not count at times we'll get a call from one of our friendly food pantries giving us 1,000 pounds of meat of course we take it but in calling families to come and distributing we forget to count like the 40 pounds of bananas that came on a Saturday I got the call, we're closed we found trucks, trailers and folks to pick up and distribute 2 hours later all Tommy town had good bananas! But did not count

God Bless you!

40 boxes of 40 lbs of bananas
MR

In Jesus,


Margarita Romo
President Council

| | |
|---|--|
| Donated by | Nativity Lutheran Church of Weeki Wachee |
| Address | 6363 Commercial Way |
| City | Weeki Wachee |
| State/Province | FL |
| ZIP/Postal Code | 34613 |
| Resurrection House Mission is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, Federal Tax ID: 48-1270857 No goods or services were exchanged for this donation. | |
| Type of donation | Financial support |
| Description | Check # 12958 |
| Value | \$1000.00 |
| Date of donation | 09/21/2020 |

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Confirmands are finishing up their study on Luther's Small Catechism. At the present time we are studying the Lord's Prayer and the Sacraments.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL - suspended until further notice.

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.

CARDS R US - Wednesday, November 4 & 11 - 12:30PM -3PM.

Cards R Us will be making greeting cards from our members' used, donated cards on Wednesday afternoons, November 4 and November 11, 12:30p.m.-3:00p.m. We meet in Winemiller Hall where we will be socially distanced. The cards we make are offered on kiosks in the narthex and in the administration building hallway for a suggested donation of 75 cents. Since donations are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help people in financial crisis, please join this ministry as we have fun making the cards. We hope that you will shop for your greeting cards at Nativity, including Thanksgiving cards. For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - Friendship Circle will share a potluck and watch one of God's beautiful sunsets on Pine Island Beach. We will meet on Friday, November 6, at 4:30p.m. To carpool, be at Nativity by 4:00p.m. Raina and I can take a couple of you in my car, understanding that masks will be worn and windows will be cracked. You may want to bring a chair in the event we can't get enough tables together to social distance. Bring your own beverage or purchase at Willy's Tropical Breeze Cafe. The high temperature is forecast to be 78*, with little chance of rain. Sunset is 6:45p.m. If anyone other than Friendship Circle would like to join us, please call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Tuesday, November 17, 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 Wednesday, December 9th 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) has 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.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE GOD AND STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH!

The Lay Leadership Committee has been made aware of 6 potential openings on Council, 2 on Mission Endowment and 2 adults and 1 youth on Synod for 2021. Many members of Nativity have specific qualities and skills needed to fill these open positions. The Lay Leadership Committee's task is to identify individuals who have been equipped by God to provide spiritual leadership at this particular time of Nativity's history. If you feel sharing your gifts and talents is God's calling for you, please notify LINDA HENGESH at LindaIRC.vp1@gmail.com or call 352-556-4544. She will be glad to give you additional information. We would appreciate any Nativity members who are interested to respond to Linda before Friday, November 13th. Thank You!

TRINKETS & TREASURES

On October 17 we had our Trinkets & Treasures sale which was a huge success. We were able to get this event done in the course of 2 1/2 months, and we made over \$1,600. I would like to thank everyone who came out as well as those who volunteered. Without you it would not have been possible.

God Bless all of you!

Evelyn Galli

FELLOWSHIP NEWS: We've been notified by The Show Palace that "Mama Mia" will return in March (barring any issues with the virus). The Palace has reserved Friday, March 26th for our group. There will be seating at every other table (we have 2 tables) and the buffet will be served by staff. Tables will be called by number to reduce the exposure to other clients. The other option is to return your ticket for a gift card (which never expires) to be used for another show. If you want a gift card, you need to contact The Show Palace directly. Please contact Pat Runyan (609-335-6427) with your preference.

PATTER FROM PATTI

Hope you are all doing well and staying safe. We would so much like to see all of you. When I watch the services, it makes me so sad because I realize how much I miss it and all of you. Our Fellowship Committee is like a fine-tuned family, but at this time and for awhile there are no activities we can offer that can keep with the needed safety precautions. We hope after the first of the year things will change. We will have to wait and see. I have been the Fellowship chairperson for 18 years, and I feel so blessed to have the wonderful committee we have. We certainly couldn't have pulled off some of the past events without all of their hard work, and I am so grateful for Pat Runyan stepping up while I have been unable to because of my health issues.

Although my health is improving, at this time we will not be attending services in person. As we watch them, I look forward to seeing those of you who decide to attend. Our prayers are with you all, and we can't wait until we can return to normal.

~Patti Cotter

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Attendance: September's attendance took an unprecedented drop from even August's slight downturn. Historically, Nativity would see increases this month due to snowbirds returning. But in a COVID world, nothing is the same.

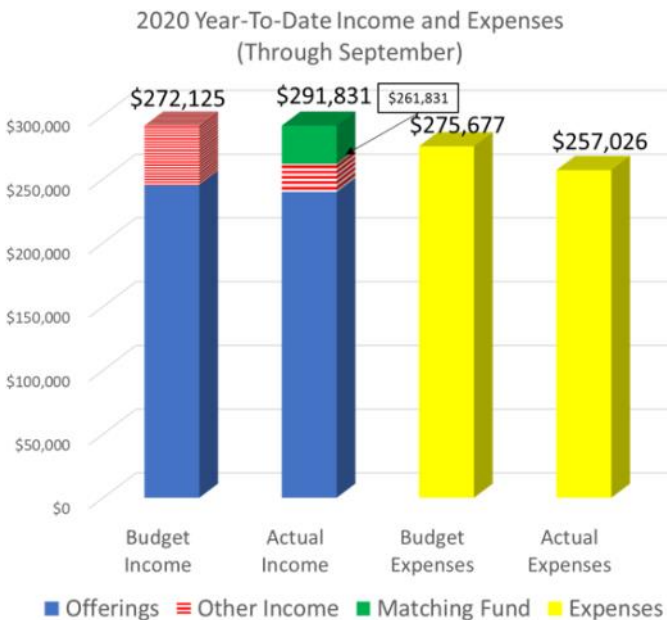
Income: Similar to attendance, September's income is down from budget and last year. Usually Nativity sees an uptick in giving as snowbirds return and get caught-up on their giving. Perhaps, COVID is keeping our snowbirds away for a longer time. I will be monitoring this theory in future months.

Expenses: Expenses this month are similar to August's but still under budgeted amounts due to lack of in-person worship. Spending for Equipment Repair for a new all-sanctuary surge protector and spending for Maintenance Supplies for re-opening supplies were some notable items for last month.

Questions: contact Jane Henkel jetgal55@gmail.com for income and Ev Galli evgalli@bcany.com for expenses.

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

--Jane Henkel, 2020 Financial Secretary



REMINDERS

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

CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS DUE DECEMBER 1ST: All ministry teams and committees are asked to turn in an annual report to the church office by December 1. As this was an unusual year, we realize most reports will be very short. Any questions, please call the church office at 352-597-1456.

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 **December** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **November 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.

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)

November Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Sandra Sander | 11/1 |
| Janet Recenello | 11/2 |
| Annie Douglas | 11/5 |
| Diane Alt | 11/7 |
| Judith Keiser | 11/8 |
| Carole Schaefer | 11/8 |
| Elenor Naizer | 11/11 |
| Michele Oliver | 11/11 |
| Marian Lyons | 11/13 |
| Eleanor Southey | 11/13 |
| Gloria Mraz | 11/14 |
| William Binns | 11/16 |
| George Smith | 11/16 |
| Glenn Houdek | 11/17 |
| Elva Posewitz | 11/17 |
| Lucas Brennan | 11/19 |
| Nancy Fish | 11/19 |



| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Carl Fish | 11/20 |
| Cam Martin | 11/20 |
| Michael Jones | 11/21 |
| Angela Russell | 11/23 |
| Janelle Mendez | 11/26 |
| Arthur Olsen | 11/27 |
| Janet Schneider | 11/28 |
| Grace Signor | 11/28 |
| Margaret King | 11/30 |
| David Smith | 11/30 |

November Wedding Anniversaries

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Monika & Michael Brennan | 11/4 |
| Doreen & Michael Davis | 11/8 |
| Nancy & Martin Salzbach | 11/16 |
| Leonore & Gary Kopitzke | 11/18 |
| Lynn & Carl Roa | 11/20 |
| Mary & Harold Reber | 11/21 |
| Janet & William Schneider | 11/21 |
| Victoria & Jack Page | 11/22 |

