



Happenings at NLC

December 2020

Monthly Newsletter

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

Worship Service 9:30am

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

UPDATE: Congregational Meeting

The Congregational Council made a decision to forgo the December 13th meeting. Therefore, to ensure participation by the greatest number of voting members as possible, we have decided to mail ballots to every voting member. Ballots were mailed out December 1st.

Upcoming Events

December 12 - Angel Tree Party

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service

December 25 - Christmas Day Service

January 17 - Congregational Annual 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

SPIRITUAL LIFE



While most of the world rushes to celebrate Christmas, the church observes the season of Advent, four weeks of preparation and anticipation beginning Sunday, November 29. We are waiting not only for our celebration of Christ's birth but also for his second coming. Each week in Advent we will light the Advent wreath. Join us in worship as we journey through Advent toward the joy of the Christmas season.



This year the pandemic has been on our mind as we considered the worship service schedule. For personal safety and proper disinfection procedure, we will have worship spread out over two days. If you can, please consider coming on for worship.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - December 24, 2020, at 4:00PM.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE - December 25, 2020, at 11:00AM.

Both will be communion services. Reservations will be taken and all safety procedures followed.

“THE LONGEST NIGHT” (virtual experience 12/20/20)

2020 has been a year like no other. Covid-19 has changed our routines, our life passages, our social times, and so much more. We have all experienced loss this year in ways we have never imagined.

How are you dealing with the loss of social gatherings? The loss of a job? Have you lost a loved one during this time? Have you felt like your dreams have been lost or put on hold?

For many, this Christmas season may bring anxiety, hopelessness, doubt, emptiness, loneliness like no other.

If you are seeking a safe place to mourn – the losses of 2020, the losses that Covid-19 has brought, the losses that we just can't understand – we offer a virtual Longest Night experience

Longest Night, Winter Solstice, is the longest night of the year – the day on which we have the least amount of daylight. We use that longest night to represent the night that seems to have no end. We allow ourselves to lament, to grieve. And we allow the Spirit to offer healing and hope and wholeness to those who are experiencing sadness or loss or brokenness.

Watch the Nativity News for information on the availability of this virtual experience. Please feel free to share it with others you think may be uplifted by it!

Questions? Please call Michelle Mehan-Conklin at 727-267-1047

POINSETTIA ORDERS - We will have **50** 6.5" potted plants (red with gold foil) **\$8.00 each**. Envelopes will be available in the narthex or church office. The plants are on a first come first served basis. You can also call the office (352-597-1456) to reserve your poinsettia.



ALTAR GUILD – Altar Guild will not meet in December. Meetings will resume in January and will be on the 4th Monday of the month at 10:00AM. We invite anyone (male or female) to attend one of our meetings 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.

OUTREACH

MISSION OF THE MONTH - FOOD PANTRY

The Nativity Lutheran Church food pantry is open Thursdays only from 9:30AM to 1:00PM, to help those in need. The pantry is only open one day a week due to the pandemic. Currently we are serving about 70 people each week. Donations of non-perishable items are always needed and can be dropped off during the food pantry hours or at our Sunday church services.

We are always looking for volunteers to assist us in this ministry. For more information, please contact Bonnie Kuester at 352-596-8548.

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.

ANGEL TREE PARTY - Saturday, December 12, 2020, 1PM - 4PM.

We will be hosting a Christmas party for children whose parents may be incarcerated or who are deemed economically disadvantaged. Last year the participation we received from the Nativity family was wonderful. The party will be on December 12th in Winemiller Hall from 1:00PM - 4:00PM. We hope you can join us.



The Angel Tree is located in the Narthex. If you would like to make a donation to this ministry, please take an envelope off the tree and place it in the offering plate.



Florida-Bahamas Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

3838 West Cypress Street ♦ Tampa, Florida 33607
813.876.7660 ♦ fbsynod.com ♦ info@fbsynod.org

November 15, 2020

Nativity Lutheran Church
6363 Commercial Way
Weeki Wachee, FL 34613

Dear friends in Christ at Nativity Lutheran Church:

Thank you for the Mission Support of \$6,987.59 you have shared with Christ's wider Church between February 1 and October 31, 2020 through and as part of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Your continued support, especially during these challenging times, is greatly appreciated. With your support we can continue our work as church together, so that we might joyfully serve our God in service, sacrifice, and celebration.

Mission Support helps us participate in the miracles of the Christ as we respond to the needs before us. It helps us train up leaders and pastors, feed people in need, respond to natural disasters, provide resources to congregations for their viability and growth, and the list goes on and on. Your Mission Support is vital to who we are and what we can do.

At our 2019 Treasurer's Gatherings, the majority preferred to receive quarterly statements rather than only one at the end of the year. We look to honor that request. We ask that you please make sure that our records are correct.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry. We pray faithfully for your congregation. Let us know how we might be of greater service to you.

In God's Peace,

The Rev. Pedro M. Suarez, Bishop
Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA

GIFT IDEAS FOR THE UPCOMING FESTIVITIES - Please consider the social purpose ELCA Good Gifts: <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>. Also, keep in mind the Church's outreach to the suffering people of the world. Explore the ELCA's Disaster Response page at <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>.

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. There will be no confirmation class on December 27.

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.

WON LUNCHEON - the December luncheon has been canceled.

CARDS R US - Wednesday, December 2 & 9, 2020 - 12:30PM - 3PM. Cards R Us will be making greeting cards from our members' used, donated cards on Wednesday afternoons, December 2 and December 9, 12:30-3:00pm. We will socially distance in Winemiller Hall. 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 enjoy making the cards, while catching up with each other. We hope you will shop for your greeting cards at Nativity, including Christmas cards. For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - Libby and John Capell have invited Friendship Circle to celebrate a potluck Christmas luncheon at their home in Pasco County on Saturday, December 5, at 12:30pm. This will be an outdoor get-together. Attendees are asked to RSVP and to coordinate their dishes with Libby (817-266-4372). Libby and John will provide the entree and we will bring a salad or cold appetizer to share. Each of us will also bring about 2 dozen Christmas cookies for dessert and for a cookie exchange. In lieu of exchanging Christmas gifts with each other, we will take up a goodwill offering to purchase goats or other needed animals/items for Haiti from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog in support of ELCA's World Hunger sustainable development projects.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Tuesday, December 15, 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 9, 2020 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 TOURNAMENT

will resume on Sunday, January 17, 2021, at Glen Lakes Country Club (10485 Glen Lakes Blvd, Spring Hill, FL 34613.) Please be at the course by 1:30PM. You will get your team assignment at that time. Tee time is 2:00PM sharp. To register please contact Jim Runyan at 609-385-6679, or email jimrunyan49@yahoo.com. You can also call the church office at 352-597-1456.



Welcome to all our new members!

We are happy that you chose Nativity as your place of worship.

Frani & Larry Barnes



Frani was born in Washington, DC, and Larry was born in Detroit, MI. Larry was in the USAF for 25 years, and a firefighter for the Anchorage Fire Department for 14 years. Frani held various secretarial positions, including one at Phillips Petroleum. They were married in Soldotna, Alaska, in 1988. They have 2 sons and 1 daughter. Frani enjoys painting and sewing, while Larry is an avid fisherman.

PO Box 275
Homosassa, FL 34487
352-228-7912 (Larry)
352-228-0661 (Frani)

Gayle Howland



Gayle was born in New York, NY, and moved to Florida from Bethlehem, PA. She has two sons. Gayle was employed by St. Luke's University Hospital as a service coordinator in Bethlehem, PA. She is a board member of Academia Hemando.

8164 Tedburn Park
Spring Hill, FL 34608
352-806-3473 (h)
484-264-6904 (c)

Ursula Schramek



Ursula was born in New York, NY. She lived in various northeast states before moving to Florida 21 years ago. She has one son. Ursula was employed by NY Bell in the billing department for 52 years. She enjoys gardening, fishing, sewing, kayaking and tennis.

105 Linder Drive
Homosassa, FL 34446
352-382-2946 (h)
352-697-5414 (c)

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY
REPORT OCTOBER 2020

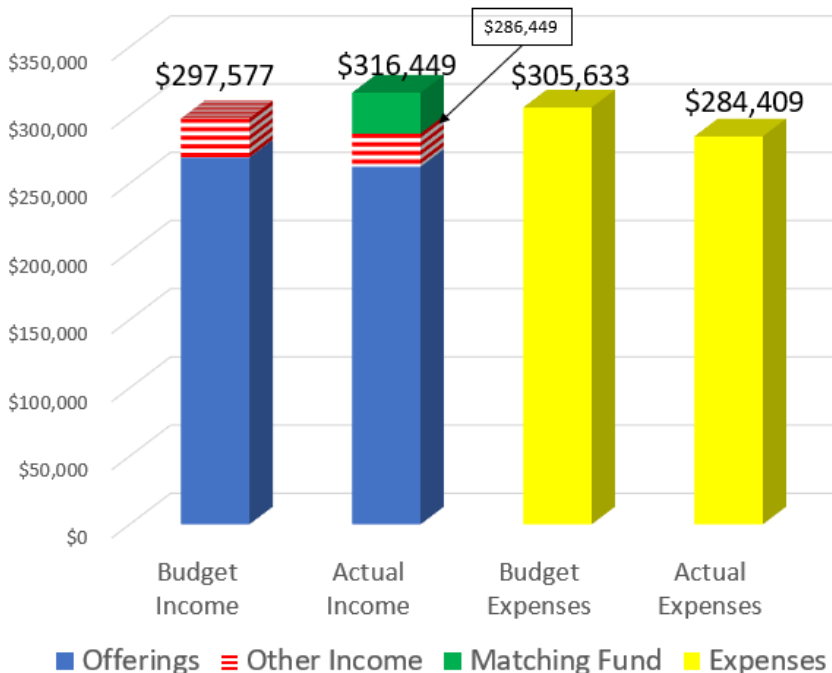
Attendance: On-line attendance continues to track downward. NLC on-line viewing was down 15% from the month prior. However, with in-person attendance beginning in the end of October, our total attendance figures for the month is 136 (monthly average) + 66 (on 10/25) = 202. While this number is far below the pre-COVID attendance, this may be the beginning of a trend based on ELCA's prediction of expected attendance after re-opening.

Income: Cumulative Envelope Giving and Loose Plate Giving is down \$7K to date. But, on a brighter note, we are beginning to see income come in for Facilities Usage and Altar Flowers which reflects the reopening of our facilities. In addition, the ~\$1800 from Trinkets and Treasures adds an unbudgeted boost to October's income. Overall, NLC is posting a positive balance of ~\$19K mostly due to matching funds.

Expenses: Resetting our mortgage on the Sanctuary has added \$50 monthly to our expenses beginning this month. But, overall lack of use of the facilities has saved us almost \$4500 against budget. Building and Grounds continues to be over budget as many of those expenses are unanticipated, but necessary.

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

2020 Year-To-Date Income and Expenses
 (Through October)



REMINDERS

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

CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS ARE DUE: 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 **January** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **December 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)

December Birthdays



Terri Breida	12/2		
Will Schantl	12/3		
Lyn Derenski	12/4		
Natalie Goff	12/4		
Asta Lundh	12/5		
Johnny Mullins	12/5		
Brenda Mullins	12/5		
Karen Ruzicka	12/7	Charlotte Hamm	12/15
Dan Derenski	12/8	Alfred Korndorfer	12/16
Scott Henkel	12/8	Desiree Mattei	12/16
Crystal Burchardt	12/9	Janet DeVico	12/21
Gayle Howland	12/9	Karen Napoli	12/23
Ann Kopp	12/9	Scott LaFranca	12/24
Nancy Siegert	12/9	Jack Page	12/27
Sara Moore	12/9	Norma Diedrich	12/30
James Nelson	12/10		
Suzanne Chelf	12/12		

December Wedding Anniversaries

Sylvia & Angelo Scebba	12/03
Royale & Tom Pugh	12/06
Gil & Joan Herr	12/21
Beury & Ellie Simons	12/21
Zell & JoAnne Boggus	12/22
Michael & Janet Jones	12/26
John & Libby Capell	12/27
Ernest & Nelly Velez	12/31

