



Happenings at NLC

January 2021

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



Upcoming Events

January 17 - Council Members Installed during service

January 18-25 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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

RESULTS OF DECEMBER ELECTIONS:

Elected to Congregation Council:

Lonora Smith	two-year term
Dan Derenski	three-year term
Evelyn Galli	three-year term
Ed Lewis	three-year term

Elected to the Lay Leadership Committee:

Annie Douglas	three-year term
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Elected to the Mission Endowment Committee:

Mike Davis	three-year term
Suzanne Chelf	three-year term

Elected as 2021 Synod Assembly Delegates:

Kim Mehan-Conklin
Michelle Mehan-Conklin
Jayson Martin

In addition, the 2021 Church Budget was approved.

At the December 21 Council meeting, the Council voted for the 2021 Officers of the Church. Those elected are:

Ed Lewis	President
Lonora Smith	Vice-president
Jane Henkel	Financial Secretary
Evelyn Galli	Treasurer

The position of Secretary remains open.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

JANUARY 18–25, 2021

The global Church is invited to dedicate a week to pray for the unity of the Church. The theme for the week is "Abide in my love...you shall bear much fruit." (cf. John 15:1-17). We reminded ourselves about the importance of praying for the fruits of closer communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ and greater solidarity with the whole of creation. The traditional period in the northern hemisphere for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is January 18-25. Those dates were proposed by Servant of God, Fr. Paul Wattson, SA, founder of the Society of the Atonement, who initiated observance of the first "Church Unity Octave" in 1908, to cover the original days of the feasts of the Chair of St. Peter (Jan. 18) and the Conversion of St. Paul (Jan. 25), and, therefore, have a symbolic significance. For a daily guide to prayer, please check out there website: [Daily Scripture and Prayer Guide - Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute \(geii.org\)](#).

ALTAR GUILD – January 25, 2021, 10:00AM. We invite anyone (male or female) to attend one of our meetings on the 4th Monday 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.**

**THANKOFFERING SERVICE – Sunday, January 31, 2021 –
9:30AM**

More information about this service will be communicated mid-January. Plans are still being discussed.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AND
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 2020**

THANK YOU to everyone involved in the beautification of our sanctuary for the celebration of the birth of Jesus!





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.

OUTREACH

MISSION OF THE MONTH - PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Weekend Blessings is a program designed to feed preschool, elementary, and middle school children whose families qualify for the Federal Free/Reduced Price Meal program. On the last day of every school week kids participating in the Weekend Blessings program get backpacks filled with sufficient food for the weekend. If you would like further information regarding this ministry please call Nancy Fish at 352-556-2375.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

As you may know, our Food Pantry has been open on Thursdays only. We follow CDC guidelines. The number of people coming to benefit from our Food Pantry has increased to the point that we are considering adding a second day. Starting Wednesday, January 6, we hope to be able to offer two days a week, Wednesday and Thursday, to accommodate the higher demand. In order to do so, we need enough committed people willing to offer one or more Wednesdays a month. If you are so inclined and want to commit your time, please call the office.



November 24, 2020

Nativity Lutheran Church
6363 Commercial Way
Weeki Wachee, FL 34613-6353

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$125.00 to NovusWay Ministries. While this has been a challenging year for the ministry emotionally and financially, we turn our hearts toward a plan to once again welcome campers back for a safe and faith filled summer. We are well on our way to reaching our \$1,800,000 Light the Fire Appeal goal by May 31, 2021, and YOU are helping make that happen!

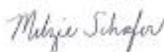
We are doing the work to plan safe programming for children and adults who we know will need camp more than ever. They will need the positive relationships, vespers, campfires, hiking, climbing, canoeing, and crafts. They will need the safe space to learn new levels of self-reliance and independence. Counselors will need the life-changing relationships and leadership skills learned from serving as summer camp staff. The church will need these strong, passionate leaders formed by our ministry. With God's help and the support of our strong camp community, we will meet these critical needs.

Please continue to tell your own camp stories as we lean on and encourage each other until we can gather again in these sacred spaces. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for being a Spark!

Sincerely in Christ,



Boyd W. Harris, IV
Executive Director-CEO



Mitzie Schafer, Deacon
Vice President for Advancement

P.S. NovusWay has the free resources to assist with comprehensive estate planning for those who want to learn more about leaving a legacy that changes everything. Contact Mitzie Schafer at 803-413-7827 or mschafer@novusway.org to learn more.

Please keep this acknowledgement letter as record of your gift for tax purposes. Year-end statements are available by request only. NovusWay Ministries acknowledges that you have not received any tangible goods or services in exchange for this contribution.

28 Spruce Drive, Arden, NC 28704 | (828) 684-2361 | www.novusway.org

Lutheridge
Arden, NC

Lutherock
Newland, NC

Luther Springs
Hawthorne, FL

Lutheranch
Tallapoosa, GA

ATTENTION: THRIVENT BENEFICIAL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A new year has started. You might be eligible for 1 or 2 Action Team Projects. You can help our church and our community by submitting one of these projects listed below:

1. Nativity Crafty Ladies - material for quilts/maintenance for sewing machines.
2. Nativity Food Pantry - animal food/health products
3. Brownies Troop #24433 - cookies for our military
4. Nativity Mental Health and Drug Graduation - gift cards
5. Nativity Sarah Circle - material for prayer scarfs
6. Nativity Days for Girls - material

Contact Ernie Horeis at 352-666-7584, with which one you have submitted for.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL - suspended until further notice.

CONFIRMATION CLASS - Classes will begin on January 24, 2021, at 11:00AM via Zoom.

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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - Friendship Circle will forego getting together in January due to the dangers of the corona virus. The weather plays a big part as we have been doing only outdoor activities. The forecast is for 70-71 degree highs for the month. Snowbirds, we know 70-71 sounds terrific to you -- enjoy! But remember, many of us here are flamingos. Friendship Circle will play it by ear for awhile, as we pray, and wait, for our vaccinations. If you have any questions about this ministry you can contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

CARDS R US - Due to the increasing number of corona virus cases, Cards R Us will **not** be gathering to make greeting cards in January. Those of you who want to make cards at home, feel free to borrow and take whatever supplies you need from our shelving in the storage closet off Winemiller Hall. If you need embellishments or assistance, please contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - **Tuesday, January 19, 2021 - 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, January 13, 2021 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.

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.



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.

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 and has requested we give them a head count by the end of January. There will be seating at every other table 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 need to contact Sarah at The Show Palace at 727-863-7949 X 2. Please contact Pat Runyan (609-335-6427) with any questions or if you misplaced your tickets.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2020

Attendance: On-line attendance has continued its linear decline. November's average is 50 less views than September and 20 less views than October. In-person worship is down from October, also.

Income: Is less than expected For November. There has been much special giving due to the holiday season. Nativity continues to be plus ~\$17K overall from budget predictions due to Matching Funds balance.

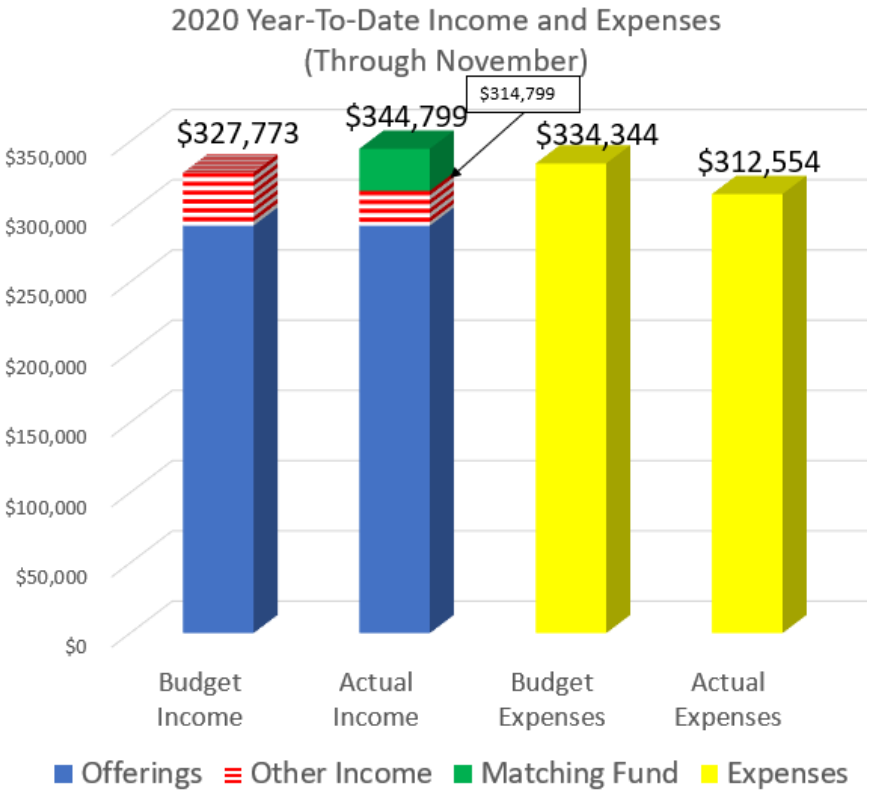
Expenses: Are significantly LESS than budget due to worship closure during the pandemic. Now that we are holding services in-person our expenses have increased as expected.

Totals: With the \$17K overage in income and the \$22K under on expenses we are ~\$39K positive as of the end of November.

Other: The Finance Committee reports that only 84 pledges for 2021 have been received for the next year. This is down from 114 last year. While this is a 12% drop, the money pledged is down by \$35K, also a 16% drop. I have sent out a reminder for publishing in the weekly announcements.

Also, Giving Envelopes have been received and are available for pick-up The lack of in-person worshippers may make distribution challenging this year. The Church Office may ask for volunteers to deliver to our members that are unable to pick them up.

Also included in the weekly announcements is a quick report of Matching Funds in 2020, and a reminder that 2021 resets our ability to collect up to \$20K. I reminded our congregants that any questions about eligibility are to be directed to Ev Galli at evgalli@bcany.com; or myself at jetgal55@gmail.com.



Questions: jane.henkel@nlcww.org

REMINDERS

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

NEW INTERNET SERVICE - we now have Spectrum internet and phone service. If you would like to connect to our internet look for **Nativity 2**, the password is **guest1234**.

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 **February** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **January 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.nlcwww.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)

January Birthdays

Henry Wittschieben	1/1
Elaine Malone	1/2
Viola Broda	1/4
Jennifer Johnson	1/6
William Schneider	1/6
Robert McDowall	1/7
Stephanie Mattei	1/10
Pam Rogers	1/13
Rebecca Hanneman	1/15
Michelle Mehan-Conklin	1/15
Theresa Halgren	1/18
Margret Steffens	1/18
JoAnne Berg	1/19
Vivian Deon	1/23
Pauline Dougan	1/23
Marilyn Schneider	1/23
Phillip Schroeder	1/24
Cynthia Rogers	1/26
Ruth Goodwin	1/29
Margaret Spina	1/31

