



Happenings at NLC

February 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

Ash Wednesday
In-Person Service*
February 17, 2021 at 6:00PM

Wednesday Lent Services
Prayer Service Will Be Recorded

**service will also be recorded*

Upcoming Events

March 28 - Congregational Meeting*
March 28 - Palm Sunday Service*
April 1 - Maundy Thursday Service (6p)
April 2 - Good Friday Service (6p)
April 4 - Easter Sunday Service*
April 17 - Trinkets and Treasures

**time to be determined*

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

Letter from the Council President

I am glad that 2020 is behind us even though we have not completely conquered the COVID-19 virus that has plagued us and curtailed our usual activities during the past year. I'm looking forward to a brighter year ahead and the opportunity to receive a vaccine. I thank God that the rollout has begun, and I pray that the distribution of the vaccine will begin to improve. I know many of our congregation have already been able to schedule an appointment and received their first dose. As I write this, I am looking forward to receiving mine in the next few days. Council has been working with the Department of Health of Hernando County with the hopes of providing this opportunity to our congregation in our facilities. I recently received the signed contract that will allow us to become a closed point of dispensing if the Department chooses to use our church to provide the vaccine. If that happens, the dispensing at our church will be for our church members who meet the dispensing criteria at the time. I will let you know if this opportunity is provided for us and we will work to schedule appointments for all in our church family who desire to receive the vaccine.

On another matter, Art Alt has been moving forward on the video screen project that we financed through a special pledge drive last fall. I extend a big thank you to all who contributed. For those who attend our in-person services, I am sure you have seen the screen at the front of the church and the one in the back. For those who watch at home, Art was able to project the duet sung by Phil and Sharon Schroeder for our special music last Sunday.

Phil and Sharon recorded the music during the week, and it was played and viewed on the new screens as part of our service. I want to give a big thank you to all who assisted Art in getting everything put in place and making this projection possible. There are more people working to develop slide shows that will display parts or all of our normal liturgy for use during upcoming services. Please look for new and wonderful things to happen with this new video system. I am excited about the opportunities it will provide, and I hope you will be too!

Looking ahead, I want to remind you that Council has voted to postpone our Annual Meeting that would have taken place in January. We have tentatively scheduled it for March 28th, which is Palm Sunday. We are hopeful that many of us will have received our vaccines by then and an in-person meeting could be scheduled. Let us all pray that we will be able to meet this goal.

Blessings in Christ,

Ed Lewis

SPIRITUAL LIFE

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE — Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 6:00PM.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. We are invited to gather for a worship service at 6:00PM, and start this period of prayer that leads to the events of Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion during "Holy Week". Due to Covid-19 there will be no marking of ashes on the forehead, but ashes will be used as a symbol of the season in front of the altar.



LENT 2021 OUR JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Lent is a time of renewal, prayer, sacrifice and preparation. Lent is 40 days before Easter, not including Sundays. It is meant to represent the time Jesus spent in the desert. This year our journey to the cross is overshadowed by COVID. Things are still different. Nativity Lutheran Church will be offering a virtual mid-week service available every Wednesday beginning February 24. Worship will include parts of the Holden Evening Prayer, scripture, prayers and a reflection. This worship will give us time to reflect on our relationship with our Lord. How can we be present and listen to God's voice? How can we grow closer in our service and devotion to our Lord?



Resources will include works from renowned author Henri J. M. Nouwen. The dates and topics are listed below:

February 24 - Focus

March 17 - Emptiness

March 3 - Solitude

March 24 - Hope

March 10 - Prayer

March 31 - Community

We look forward to having you join us on the Lenten Journey. Recordings of the prayers will be sent out weekly. For questions or more information please contact the church office.

ALTAR GUILD – February 22, 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.**



ALTAR FLOWERS— If you would like to honor someone special or commemorate a special event, please call the church office (352-597-1456) to order altar flowers. Donation is \$25.00.

Flowers can be picked up after the 9:30AM Sunday service, or you can schedule a pick-up time with the office if you are not attending service.

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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

CONFIRMATION CLASS continues with the study of the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament). The class is still on-line due to Covid-19 every Sunday at 11:00AM via Zoom.

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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE and **CARDS R US** will not be meeting in February.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - Please watch your email for information about meeting from Jill Helgeson. If you have any questions you can contact Jill at 352-686-3367.

CRAFTY LADIES - Anyone who would like to meet on Fridays at the church between 9:00AM - 11:00AM, please feel free to do so. If you have any questions, please call Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Tuesday, February 16, 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.

FELLOWSHIP: Mama Mia and the Show Palace. Due to the ongoing concerns with the new strain of the virus the Show Palace has issued us gift cards. Please contact Pat Runyan at 609-335-6427 for further information.

BIBLE STUDY - Have you been doing the Bible Study in Gather Magazine? Very interesting lessons on Angels. What do you think of when you hear the word "Angels"? There is also some help on the website from the author of this study.

Mary McDowall

THE NATIVITY CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT

will take place on February 21, 2021, at Hernando Oaks Golf Club (5230 Delacroix Dr, Brooksville, FL 34604.)

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.



THANK YOU! Thank you for all the wishes, cards, and phone calls for my birthday. I have chosen to stay home because of the virus in our County. I hope I get to see you all soon. Thanks again, Love and Blessings, Terry Halgren

TRINKETS AND TREASURES PART 2 - Our fundraising event last October was a success and we are planning to have another one this spring. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, and we are looking for donations of various items. Things we will accept are as follows: dishes, glassware, kitchen items, pictures, books, toys, CDs, DVDs, DVD players, computers, speakers, small appliances, holiday decorations, tools, and knick knacks in good condition. Items that we will NOT accept include: clothes, large appliances, TVs, Christmas string lights, and furniture. We will also need volunteers to help sort the items that are donated as well as help set up the week of April 12 as well as on the actual day of the event. If you would like to donate items (or have any questions) or to volunteer, please call Evelyn Galli at 352-684-2261 or 516-909-3119.

January 8, 2021

Dear Members of Nativity Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for all your cards and prayers and love sent to us in memory of Marion Jensen. She was a member of Nativity while she lived with us and especially enjoyed the monthly Wednesday luncheon and cards and most certainly Crafty Ladies. With that in mind, we would like this check of \$100 to go to Crafty Ladies to use wherever needed.

We cherish our time spent at Nativity and especially value our friendships there.

In Christ,

John & Diane

Resurrection House Mission, Inc.

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



January 14, 2021

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

Dear Friends:

Thank you so very much for your gift to Resurrection House Mission. What a blessing.

"A Christmas Story"

For many years we have worked together to bring the love of Jesus to TommyTown and recently just before Christmas we had an opportunity to see the fruits of labor, one of our young members 20 years ago lived and worked with us, then one day he moved away, got married had children, found a church. He radiated with the love of Jesus as he spoke to us, then he said we live an hour and a half away we have a ministry, many children no toys! We said we'll share! After all God had been preparing us all for such a moment as this! Not only did we care for all our children, but we shared with their children, then we still had 20 big heavy duty bags to send to Haiti to an orphanage of 80 children, reminds me of the fishes and loaves of bread! How many baskets were left over? 12! Now we've duplicated ourselves and God said that is good!

I wanted to share this story of Christmas, we did not buy one toy they came from different places and toys for tots included. God is good!

40 years of relationships created an opportunity for us to share just as 40 years ago your church shared with us.

In Jesus,


Margarita Romo
President Council

Donation Receipt from Resurrection House Mission

Questions? Contact FSH at 352-567-1432.

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 # 13011
Value	\$1350.00
Date of donation	12/14/2020

Thank you for your generosity. We appreciate your support!

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY

December 2020

Attendance: On-line attendance for December was similar to November's with an average of 111 on-line views for the 4 Sundays in December. (Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service of 140 and 82, respectively, are not included in these figures per Synod guidelines.) In-person numbers rose to 62 this month from 50 in November. (103 Christmas Eve and 29 Christmas Day in-person attendance was, also, not counted in the average.)

Income: Was less than budgeted for December. The last year of the month typically brings in the biggest giving, but not this year. We saw only 76% of expected revenue; however, with our worshippers' previous giving, we ended the year nearly on-budget. (Thank you to those who have kept up their pledges.) End-of-the-year excess funds from Matching Funds, Special Offering and the Morganroth annuity have been directed to Maintenance Reserve to replenish that fund for upcoming building expenses.

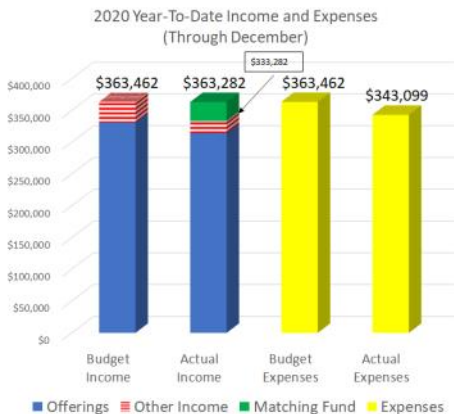
Expenses: Are significantly less than budget due to worship closure during the pandemic. We ended up at the end of the year \$20K under budget.

Other: The Finance Committee reports that 86 pledges for 2021 have been received for the next year.

Giving Envelopes that have not been picked up are in mailboxes in Winemiller Hall.

With the arrival of 2021, a new pool of Matching Funds is available: any giving over the year before or new giving will be matched by this fund 100% on a quarterly basis.

Questions: Jane Henkel at jetgal55@gmail.com or Ev Galli at evgalli@bcany.com.



- 2020 income includes \$29,999.88 Matching Fund. Actual without matching funds = \$356,168.
- 2020 income also includes \$13,000 in Payroll Protection loans. An offsetting reserve was established as the amount that must be repaid is not yet known.

Questions: jane.henkel@nlcw.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 **March** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **February 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.

February Birthdays

Iris Brunner	2/2
Ivette Sanchez	2/6
Charles Wingrove	2/6
Roger Wendrzycki	2/7
Simone Mattei	2/9
Margret Ahlquist	2/11
Beverly Houdek	2/15
Joseph Rogers	2/15
Arthur Diedrich	2/16
Valerie Mahon	2/16
Zell Boggus	2/17
Bette Kosatko	2/17
Don Hoy	2/19
Doreen Davis	2/19
Galina Maras-Kesteloot	2/19
Patrick Gould	2/22
Georgeann Scheidter	2/22
Debra LaFranca	2/23
Lynne Merritt	2/24
Jim Runyan	2/24
Robert Sanders	2/24



Dieter Steffens	2/24
Darlene Gould	2/26
Carol White	2/26
Philip Wolfe	2/26
Susan Deeg	2/27
Lorraine Meyer	2/27
Lilo Horeis	2/28
Frank Margagliotti	2/28

February Wedding

Lorrie & Frank DeFrancesco	2/11
Carol & Richard Fleschner	2/17
Linda & Brian Wagner	2/26



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)