

## NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEEKI WACHEE

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

Worship Service: 9:30AM

*Reverend Giuseppe Mattei*

Please silence your cell phone during the service.

*Welcome! We pray this time will be a blessing and a source of spiritual strength for you. Reverend Giuseppe Mattei*

### SPIRITUAL LIFE

#### UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156 - Tuesday, February 23, 2021.** Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

**Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921 - Thursday, February 25, 2021.** Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

**ALTAR GUILD NEWS:** There is a great opportunity for anyone, male or female, to join the group and help decorate the sanctuary for our worship time. We meet on the 4th Monday of each month at 10:00 AM. Those who participate find it rewarding and enjoyable. For more information please call **Suzanne Chelf at 352-684-7329.**

### COMMUNITY LIFE

**THANK YOU!** It is with grateful hearts we offer our thanks for the outpouring of cards, calls, kind words and prayers upon the death of our mother, Mary Jones. Your kindness means a lot to us. It has filled our hearts with your love. Be well, our Nativity family.

God bless, Mike and Janet Jones

#### 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.

**UPDATE ON CHURCH RESERVATIONS AND COMMUNION.** The Worship & Music Committee has determined that we no longer require reservations for our Sunday service. We will still write down names for tracking attendance, and help newcomers with seating as needed. Our capacity for Sunday service remains the same at 104. Temperature checks, masks, and social distancing are still required. **Pew cards** are available in the narthex for your convenience. Please use them to convey any message to the pastor, or to request special prayers.

**ABSENCE OF FLOWERS DURING LENT.** There are no flowers displayed in the church during Lent. If you would like to dedicate the bulletin to someone in place of flowers, the suggested donation is \$10.00. The bulletins would then be in honor or memory of that person. *Please call or stop by the office with your request, 352-597-1456.*

**NEW INTERNET.** If you would like to connect to our internet look for **Nativity 2**, the password is **guest1234**.

Please check out our website at: [www.nlcww.org](http://www.nlcww.org)



**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. Nativity Mental Health and Drug Graduation - gift cards
  4. Nativity Sarah Circle - material for prayer scarfs
  5. Nativity Days for Girls - material
  6. Trinkets and Treasures - food for volunteers
- Contact Ernie Horeis at 352-666-7584, with which one you have submitted for.

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY 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.

**HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH** – If you know anyone in our congregation that is hospitalized, in need of home communion or a pastoral call, please call the office at **352-597-1456**.

**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.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** - next class will be March 7 at 11:00AM, and will be held via Zoom.

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL:** canceled until further notice.

## OUTREACH

**Food Pantry Stats for February 17 & 18:  
Total Shoppers 27; Total Served 65**

**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE** - We follow CDC guidelines. The number of people coming to benefit from our Food Pantry has increased to the point that we have added a second day to accommodate the higher demand. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please call the office at 352-597-1456.

### HAPPENING THIS WEEK

#### Monday, February 22

Altar Guild Meeting (Winemiller) 10:00AM

#### Tuesday, February 23

Girl Scout Troop #24401 (Winemiller) 6:00PM

#### Wednesday, February 24

Food Pantry 9:30AM

#### Thursday, February 25

Food Pantry 9:30AM

#### Friday, February 26

Backpack Ministry (Winemiller) 7:30AM  
TOPS (Winemiller) 8:00AM  
Crafty Ladies (Al Lien) 9:00AM

#### Saturday, February 27

Girl Scout Troop #4427 (Al Lien) 10:00AM

#### Sunday, February 28

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 9:30AM  
Confirmation Class (Zoom) 11:00AM

### **UPCOMING HAPPENINGS:**

March 28 - Congregational Meeting, 9:45AM  
March 28 - Palm Sunday Service, 9:30AM  
April 1 - Maundy Thursday Service, 6:00PM  
April 2 - Good Friday Service, 6:00PM  
April 4 - Easter Sunday Service, 9:30AM  
April 17 - Trinkets and Treasures

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Friday, 9A - 12N

**FOOD PANTRY:** Wednesdays & Thursdays, 9:30A - 1P