



# Happenings at NLC

April 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

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Thursday, April 1**

**Maundy Thursday Service, 6:00PM**

**Friday, April 2**

Individual prayer at the **Stations of the Cross**, come at  
your leisure between **3:00-6:00 PM**

Community **Tenebrae (Darkness) Service, 6:00 PM**

**Sunday, April 4**

**Easter Sunday Service, 9:30AM**

### **Upcoming Events**

April 5 - Church Office is Closed

April 17 - Trinkets & Treasures, 9a-3p

April 19 - Council Meeting, 4:00p

Please visit our website at  
**[www.nlcww.org](http://www.nlcww.org)** to view  
the NLC calendar, submit  
requests for dates/events,  
download sermons, among  
other things.

## ***FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT***

As you read this, we have made it to Holy Week and Easter. What a different experience from last year. We entered a time of no in-person worship just prior to the Easter season in 2020. Many of you have already begun to return to our in-person services and more are attending each week. I am hoping to see many of you at our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and I am really looking forward to celebrating the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday.

As we return, I hope we all begin to think about what the future will hold for Nativity Lutheran Church. I would ask you to think about returning to church with a renewed mind and spirit and perhaps a new vision. We have all been changed by this past year. May we all think about how this change can lead us into new opportunities for our church in the future. If you have ideas for our church, please feel free to share those with Pastor, a member of Council, or our Worship and Music Committee. We will be working on new approaches and new ways to worship, to fellowship, and to reach out to our neighbors.

I want to share with you the results of the voting that took place at our Annual Congregational Meeting that was held on Sunday, March 28, 2021. This meeting was extremely long, and many found it necessary to leave before the adjournment. We had three amendments brought before the congregation. They were referred to as Amendments A, B, and C. Amendment A was discussed and we voted on this change to the bylaws for the management of the

NLC Mission Endowment Fund. This amendment passed with an 87.3% approval vote: 55 votes in favor, 8 votes against, and 1 abstention. Amendment B was tabled and will be brought back up at our next regular meeting, which will be held in December. This amendment dealt with adding limitations to service on the Congregation Council. Amendment C was to make changes to the constitution and bylaws concerning an ex-officio member of the Congregation Council from the Mission Endowment Committee. This amendment passed with a 76.2% approval vote: 48 votes in favor, 15 votes against, and 2 abstentions.

*Blessings to you all,*

*Ed Lewis*

# SPIRITUAL LIFE

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



### Thursday, April 1

**Maundy Thursday Service, 6:00PM**

### Friday, April 2

Individual prayer at the **Stations of the Cross**, come at your leisure between **3:00-6:00 PM**

Community **Tenebrae (Darkness) Service, 6:00 PM**

### Sunday, April 4

**Easter Sunday Service, 9:30AM**

**GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER STATIONS - April 2, 3:00PM - 6:00PM.** On Good Friday, April 2, 2021, Experiential Prayer Stations will be offered from 3:00-6:00pm (prior to the Tenebrae Service). We hope that you will come and see a different way of participating in Good Friday. If you have question, please call Michelle Mehan at 727-267-1047. Come for that prayer anytime between 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM, and pace yourself enjoying this time alone with the Lord.

**Good Friday Service:** come at 6:00 PM for a communal time of prayer, meditation, music, and scripture reading.

**ALTAR FLOWERS to start again after Easter.** If you would like to purchase flowers for the altar in honor or memory of a loved one or event, please call the office at 352-597-1456. For those people who have purchased bouquets, the Altar Guild will have them ready for you to pick up after the 9:30AM service. **PLEASE, do not** remove flowers from the altar. Members from the Altar Guild will remove them for you.

**ALTAR GUILD – April 26, 2021, 10:00AM.**

We invite anyone (male or female) to attend one of our meetings which is held 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.**



**COLUMBARIUM NEWS:** You may have noticed more name plates are being placed on our Columbarium. We have only 4 single niches left. The purchase price for each niche is \$500.00. Our Columbarium is maintained by a committee of three. Dennis Rogers (chair), Ernie Horeis, and Buddy Kristoferson. It is conveniently located for visitation by loved ones and friends to visit.

# OUTREACH

## APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH - WORLD HUNGER

Have you ever really gone hungry? Have you wondered where the next meal is coming from? Well, millions of people have. The real sad part is that it includes children! Adults may have problems in securing the next meal, but it's worse for children. They do not have the ability to find their next meal; therefore, they have to rely on us.

It is sad that so many people in this world go hungry. Even here in the United States. Much of it due to weather conditions such as hurricanes, tornados and floods. Plus: poverty, insurrection, dictatorships and the economy. Now we are experiencing a still greater threat due to the pandemic known as coronavirus (COVID -19). This horrible disease has caused much of the shortage due to the closing of so many businesses, and the unavailability of personnel due to illness or government restrictions. Not to mention hoarding done by so many people. Shortages are not only due to the aforementioned, but also by devious people. We cannot let this happen!

The sad part of this is that it's happening in Hernando County! Just check with our personnel manning our food pantry. This is yet another avenue needing your valued assistance. If you cannot provide food then you can just write a check to our church and mark the envelope for the Food Pantry.

We can also help universally. You can help. We can help. You are the answer. We are the answer.

We need your donations. Your box of offering envelopes includes envelopes for ELCA WORLD HUNGER. YOU can also use the green offering envelopes, or just a plain white envelope marked for ELCA WORLD HUNGER. Just write a check and mail it to Nativity Lutheran Church, 6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee, FL 34613.

Thank you for your help.

*Yours in Christ*

*Jim Christensen*

## **2021 TROMPETER FUND GRANTS AWARDED**

The Mission Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that it has awarded grants from the David and Dorothy Marie Trompeter Endowment Fund for 2021 in the amount of \$61,180. The following were recipients of this year's awards: People Helping People (Neighborhood Blessings), People Helping People (Senior Blessings), Lighthouse for the Blind, Village of Hope Haiti, Days for Girls, Crafty Ladies, NAMI, Crescent of Hernando, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Nativity Lutheran Food Pantry, Homosassa Elementary School PTO, Golden Rainbow Ranch, Nativity Lutheran radio ministry, Nativity Lutheran web streaming, Resurrection House, and Healthy Families Pasco. The details of the awards are listed on a sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Administrative Building. The Trompeter Endowment guidelines dictate that none of the fund or proceeds of the fund can be used for current expenses or building programs of the church. The Fund is completely separate from our church's budget.

## **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.

# 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.

### **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.



**CARDS R US** will resume card-making on April 7th and 21st, from 12:30PM - 3:00PM, in Winemiller Hall. We are gathering because at least some of us are now protected by having received vaccinations. It's a happy day! If anyone enjoys being creative and, at the same time, wants to help those in a financial crisis, this is the mission for you. All proceeds from donations for our cards are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Supplies and tools are provided. For information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.



**DAYS FOR GIRLS - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7TH AND THURSDAY, APRIL 22ND - 9:00AM - 12:00PM (AL LIEN HALL).**

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.

Mark your calendars for our dates in May. We are planning on meeting May 5th and 19th - 9:00AM -12:00PM. Any changes to these dates will be communicated in our weekly announcement sheet and next months newsletter.

Please consider joining us. For more information, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

**The Hernando County Sheriff's Department is again accepting teddy bears and other stuffed critters** for their deputies to give to children traumatized in an accident or involved in other scary events. On behalf of Nativity, Susan Nordstrom delivered about 2 dozen stuffed toys to the Sheriff at his Brooksville headquarters--some of you may have seen the photo of Sheriff Nienhuis and Susan on Facebook. This gift was made possible thanks to Judy Dietz and Evelyn Lawlor's generosity. Friendship Circle is again requesting new stuffed animals, with tags attached, for this mission. Easter bunnies and chicks will be half price the day after Easter. The stuffed animals can be left with Linda at the church office, or you may call Susan at 352-428-1918 to coordinate.



**MEN'S BREAKFAST - Tuesday, April 20, 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.

**THE NEXT NATIVITY CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT**

will take place on April 18 at World Woods Golf Club, 17590 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Brooksville, FL 34614. Please be at the course by 1:30PM. You will get your team assignment at that time. Tee time is 2:00PM sharp. Any questions, please contact Jim Runyan at 609-385-6679.



We always have a great time, and best of all you do not need to know how to golf. So think about joining us at our tournament in April.



**9:00am - 3:00pm**

This fundraising event for Nativity is taking place at church on Saturday, April 17. We will need volunteers to help set up the week of April 12 from 9am to approximately 12-1pm, as well as on the day of the sale. If you can help out, all you need to do is show up. Please note that we will be following all the necessary guidelines to keep everyone safe. If you have any questions, you can email Evelyn Galli at [evgalli@bcany.com](mailto:evgalli@bcany.com) or call her at 352-556-2820 or 516-909-3119.

## FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**Attendance:** Good news! Attendance is heading back up with more in-person attendance and more on-line views. This may be a direct result of vaccinations--as more and more of our worshippers receive the vaccination series, more and more are returning to church. Praise the Lord!

**Income:** Was not what was budgeted; however, in using last year's actual numbers for this year, February 2021 giving is being compared to full in-person worship services of February 2020 before the COVID shutdown.

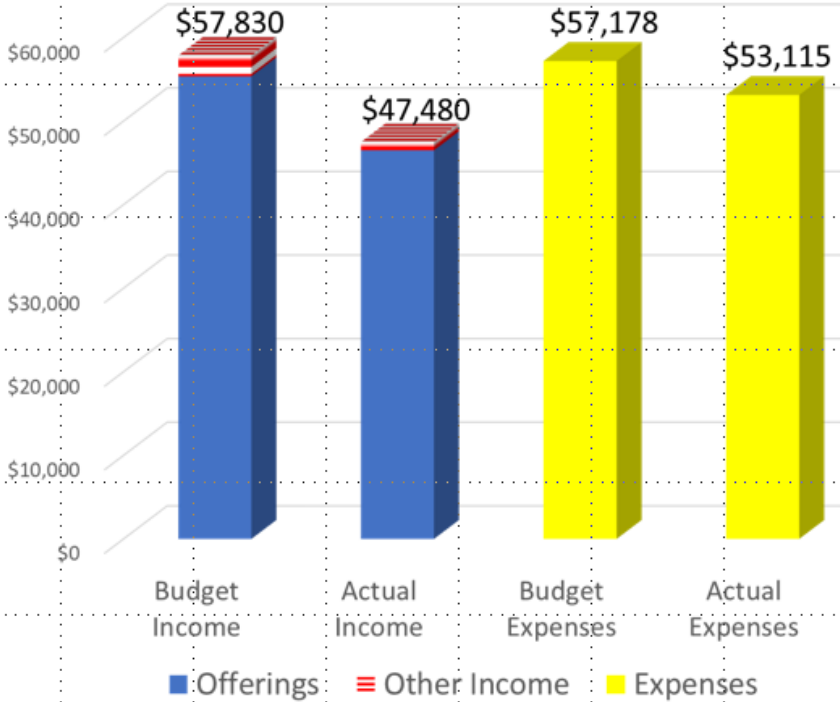
The two categories that were substantially down this year were Ash Wednesday giving and Initial Envelope Donations—both of which have historically been dependent on in-person attendance. In addition, NLC's Facility Users (i.e. those that rent our rooms) have not returned to full use and therefore, have not made the expected rent/donation payments that are usually received by now. With more reopening, that number should rise.

**Expenses:** Out-paced this month's giving by \$4000. While expenses are down overall, NLC's finances post a deficit of \$6K in the first 2 months of 2021.

**Annual Meeting:** 2020's giving and expense numbers will be summarized at the **Congregational Meeting on March 28 at 10:30 am**. Other important issues will be presented and discussed there, also. Please plan to attend. Your questions regarding finances will be taken then.

**Questions:** Jane Henkel, Financial Secretary, email: [jetgal55@gmail.com](mailto:jetgal55@gmail.com). Ev Galli, Treasurer, email: [evgalli@bcany.com](mailto:evgalli@bcany.com) .

### 2021 Year-To-Date Income and Expenses (Through February)



Questions: [jane.henkel@nclww.org](mailto:jane.henkel@nclww.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 when on campus 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 **May** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) by **April 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](http://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](mailto: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)

## April Birthdays

Frank Defrancesco	04/02
Carlan Helgeson	04/03
Sue Margagliotti	04/03
Ashley Hoy	04/04
Howard Schaefer	04/05
William Hamm	04/06
JoAnne Stuck	04/06
Sylvia Scebba	04/07
Olivia Haaland	04/08
Lorraine Dobbe	04/11
Catherine Hill	04/13
Susan Lee	04/13
Douglas Johnson	04/14
Michael Davis	04/15
Linda Hengesh	04/16
Martin Salzbach	04/18
Linda Rizzo	04/19
Giacomo Mattei	04/20
Darla Strey	04/20
Jim Christensen	04/21
James Stuck	04/21
Charlotte Downing	04/24
Gary Hopkins	04/24



Joshua Wozniak	04/26
Joanne Morrow	04/28
Jack Chase	04/29
Renee Desilets	04/30
James Nelson	04/30
Meredith Wozniak	04/30

## April Wedding Anniversaries

Richard and Sandra Sander	04/02
George and Lonora Smith	04/18
Ernie and Lilo Horeis	04/23
Philip and Cheryl Wolfe	04/25
Gregory and Charlene Massey	04/27
Michael and Linda Thelen	04/30

