



Happenings at NLC

May 2021

Monthly Newsletter

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

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30am

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Rachel's Day - Sunday, May 2

Sunday, May 9



Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 23



Upcoming Events

May 16 - Godspeed Blessing for Jim & Darlene
Christensen (during service)

May 29 - Memorial Service for Louise Luffsey

June 6 - Celebration for Ruth Ann Hoy

Please visit our website at
www.nlcww.org to view
the NLC calendar, submit
requests for dates/events,
and download sermons,
among other things.



6363 Commercial Way, Weeki
Wachee, FL 34613 • 352-597-1456 •
www.nlcww.org

SPIRITUAL LIFE

RACHEL'S DAY – May 2, 2021

At the beginning of service, Susan Nordstrom will talk about the history of Rachel's Day, which is observed by Women of the ELCA annually on the first Sunday in May. The day takes its name from *Jeremiah 31:15–17*, in which the matriarch Rachel grieves for her children. It is a time set aside to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of violence and fear that plague our nation.

PENTECOST—Sunday, May 23, 2021

Pentecost is a holiday on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus.



The Sanctuary will be decorated in red and we ask all to wear **RED** that day.

A celebration of Holy Baptism for Haylee Jayde Newsome, daughter of Christina and James, is scheduled for Pentecost Day, May 23. During the same service Mark Major, Tyler Patterson, Zack Velez, and Emma Wozniack will be confirmed through the Affirmation of Baptism ritual.



ALTAR FLOWERS. 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 will not be meeting in May. Next scheduled meeting will be June 28 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.**



COLUMBARIUM NEWS: You may have noticed more name plates are being placed on our Columbarium. We have only 3 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.

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.

OUTREACH

MAY/JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH - REZ HOUSE

Each year Nativity raises money to purchase “Back to School” shoes for the children of the migrant workers who use the services of Rez House or who worship there on Sunday. Make your check payable to Nativity Lutheran Church and indicate Rez House on the memo line.

Blessings to All, JoAnne Boggus
for the Mission and Outreach Committee

The program is free and open to all, thanks to a grant from The Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation. Michelle Mehan-Conklin is one of the presenters at the evening forums.

Grief Matters Community Forums



Presented by the chaplains of the Morton Plant Mease Spiritual Care team, this online monthly series will address topics that are central to the experience of grief. Each one-hour presentation will use resources from the nationally acclaimed "Speaking Grief" series, produced by WFSU Penn State with philanthropic support from the New York Life Foundation. These programs are free and open to all, thanks to a grant from Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation.

Supporting Grief

Discover how to best support someone who's grieving. Learn what might be most helpful and what might not be from those who have experienced grief.

Tuesday, April 27
6:30-7:30pm

Wednesday, April 28
12-1pm

Secondary Losses

While the death of a loved one is the primary loss, many secondary losses can follow, including loss of hopes, dreams, relationships, finances and sense of belonging. Naming these secondary losses is an important step in the grieving process.

Tuesday, May 25
6:30-7:30pm

Wednesday, May 26
12-1pm

Caring for You in the Kitchen

This online cooking class with chef Renae Seiler will introduce batch cooking - cooking once to make several meals for the week. We'll explore how to nourish our bodies as we tend to our grief. Chaplains from the Morton Plant Mease Spiritual Care team will welcome your questions.

Tuesday, June 22
6:30-7:30pm

Wednesday, June 23
12-1pm

To register: mpmbereavement@baycare.org or (727) 462-7995





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

March 30, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for your generosity and support to our shared mission in the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We are grateful for your commitment through your mission support, which allows us to be a church together for the sake of the world. Together we are a church that is committed to the Good News of the Bible, igniting people's faith and passion for Christ, and doing the work of justice and peace in the world.

Because of your mission support, we continue to be church locally and globally, accompanying our companion churches in Cuba, Haiti, Guyana, Suriname, and the seminary in Jamaica. It is such a great joy to witness their ministry and to learn from their example as they spread the message of the Good News and make disciples.

We are excited for the vitality process, as we explore new ways, even as we live through a pandemic, to connect to God and each other, and to connect with our neighborhoods for the sake of being vibrant communities of faith that bless people with hope and peace.

Your financial commitment makes mission happen. Together we are empowering congregations to be redevelopment sites, assisting as they brand their ministry in new ways to connect with their changing communities. Together we are starting new churches and mission centers where people are experiencing God's love. Together we can do more and be more.

Again, we say thank you and ask you to continue to live and sacrifice as you do for the Glory of God and the goodness of Christ's Church.

God bless us all! You are outstanding! We are grateful! God is pleased!

Your Directors for Evangelical Mission,

Rev. Khader El Yateem
Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA

Rev. Robert S. Carlson
Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

MISSION SUPPORT 2020

THANK YOU

To the members of
Nativity Lutheran Church
Weeki Wachee

from the
Florida-Bahamas Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
In grateful appreciation for giving

\$9,600

for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and
churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Synod Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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.



MASK WEARING UPDATE

The CDC has issued new guidelines for mask-wearing. Fully vaccinated people don't need to wear masks outdoors anymore unless they are in gatherings with unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated people. The agency continues to recommend masks at indoor public places where the transmission is likely to occur. We will continue to wear our masks and keep a safe distance for our sitting arrangements in the church sanctuary. Small group indoor gatherings for meetings are still recommended to wear a mask unless all participants have been fully vaccinated and everybody agrees to remove the masks while still keeping safe distancing. We continue to encourage everyone to assume a caring and nonjudgmental attitude, respecting everyone's sensitivity and comfort level. No one should need to excuse themselves from a meeting for safety issues: the default is still mask-wearing. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.



DAYS FOR GIRLS - Wednesday, May 5th and 19th - 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. Please consider joining us. For more information, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

CARDS R US - Wednesday, May 12th and 19th.

Cards R Us will gather to make greeting cards from used cards on May 12th and 19th at 12:30-3:00pm in Winemiller Hall. We will maintain the 3-table distance between us to be on the safe side. Please join in this fun, creative, and worthwhile mission, with profits going to Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help those in need. For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.





FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - MAY 8TH. On Saturday May 8th, we will socialize, share devotions and a picnic potluck, play games, and enjoy God's creation on the Gulf of Mexico at Pine Island Park. We will meet at the park, 10840 Pine Island Drive 34607, at 5:00PM in the evening. Or, to carpool, meet at Nativity at 4:30PM. Bring your beverage, a dish to share, and a favorite game. If you are the first to arrive at Pine Island, please try to hold a shelter with two picnic tables. FYI: sunset is at 8:09PM. For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918. All are welcome.

SARAH CIRCLE - is looking for help!

Crocheters and knitters, cash donations for yarn, or yarn itself. If you enjoy crocheting or knitting, and would like to help with Nativity's prayer shawl mission, join Sarah Circle on the third Thursday of the month, starting in May, at 10:00am in the Youth Room. Or, if you prefer, the prayer shawls can be made in your home. For information, call Peggy Sanders at 352-382-1781.



MEN'S BREAKFAST - Tuesday, May 18, 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.

This will be Jim's last men's breakfast. Jim and Darlene are moving back to Kenosha, WI.

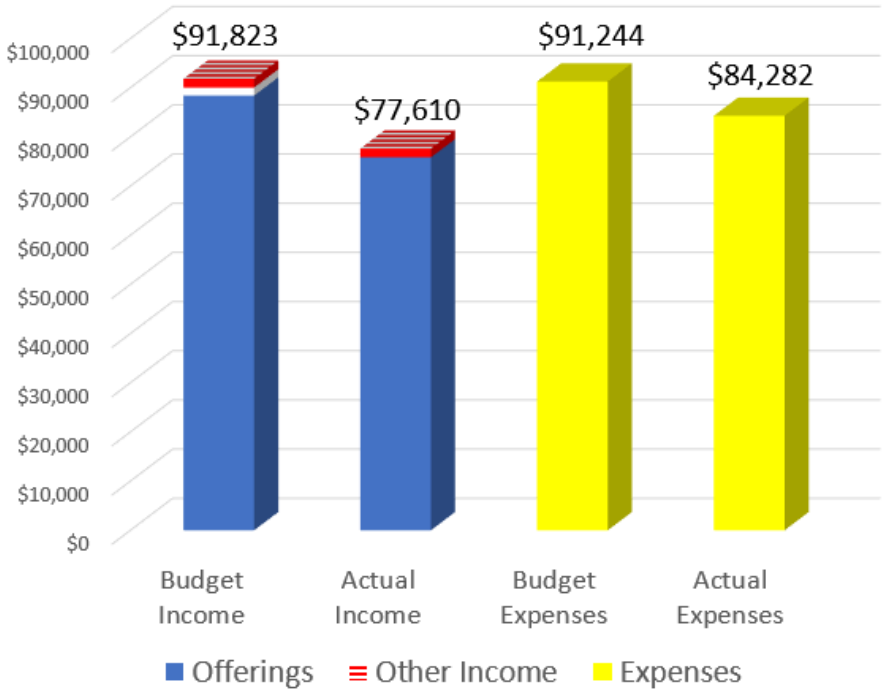


TRINKETS & TREASURES - I would like to thank everyone who helped make the Trinkets & Treasures sale a huge success. We made a total of \$3,000. In addition, we are donating various items from the sale to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches for their thrift stores. Without your participation, the event would not have been possible. To be part of a wonderful church family is a blessing and one that I cherish. Again, my heartfelt thanks
- Evelyn Galli.

THANK YOU! I want to thank our Nativity family for the prayers, good wishes, and all of the cards I have received. It was such a joy for me to be back at church on Easter and seeing so many old friends. Although it has been tough for a long time, I was so happy to contact Linda and tell her to please take me off the prayer list I have been on for 3 years. Here is hoping the doctors finally have found the answers and I continue feeling like the old Patti. Love you all, Patti Cotter

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY

2021 Year-To-Date Income and Expenses
(Through March)



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 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 **June** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **May 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.

May Birthdays

Murial Bishop	5/1
June Heinecke	5/2
Roselind Rosten	5/4
Marie Hamilton	5/6
Gary Kopitzke	5/7
Kim Mehan-Conklin	5/7
Cherylann Schneider	5/7
Eleanor Hockings	5/8
Lonora Smith	5/9
Irma Haig	5/11
Joan Marceau	5/12
Laura Marasco	5/13
Linda Wagner	5/13
Sandie Bates	5/15
Judith Nelson	5/18
Ellee Simons	5/18
Ian Rogers	5/19
Sara Zybell	5/19
Lynda Bohn	5/21
Susan Nordstrom	5/21
John Capell	5/22
Richard Sander	5/22



Ginger Wielk	5/22
Larry Fortner	5/23
Joan Lombardo	5/24
Phyllis Olsson	5/24
Ursula Schramek	5/24
Janet Pellerito	5/25
Winona Binns	5/27
Chestley Merritt	5/27
Alice Seeholzer	5/28
Monika Brennan	5/29
Connie Chase	5/29
Linda Russo	5/29
Ruth Edwards	5/30
Julie Hopkins	5/30
Irene Froehlich	5/31

May Wedding Anniversaries

William and Renee Desilets	5/3
Jack and Connie Chase	5/7
Bob and Cherylann Schneider	5/17
Doug and Sharon Johnson	5/19
Paul and Karen Chipko	5/22
Dan and Lyn Derenski	5/24
Nicholas and Doris Daley	5/25
Larry and Laura Fortner	5/26
John and Lorraine Dobbe	5/31



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)