



Happenings at NLC

July 2021

Monthly Newsletter

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

Worship Service: 9:30AM

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Be Well, Stay Safe



Upcoming Events

July 5 - Office Closed

July 14 - A Prayer service of
Confession & Reconciliation

July 30 - Migrant Workers' Children
Shoes Project

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

SPIRITUAL LIFE

PASTOR'S VACATION - Pastor Mattei will be going on vacation July 4 - 20. He will be spending quality time with family in Italy. Michelle Mehan-Conlkin will preside over the July 4th service, and Pastor Peter Stiller (retired ELCA pastor) will preside over the July 11th and 18th service.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

Please, mark your calendar, plan to attend, and invite a friend to the following events:

- **July 14** - A Prayer service of Confession & Reconciliation, 6:00 PM
- **August 18** - A Prayer of Intercession for the country, 6:00 PM

For your planning, all services last between 30 and 45 minutes.

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

With worship services on Sunday and more groups meeting at church, please let us know if you need someone to pick you up for church activities and we will do our best to see if we can arrange a ride for you.

Also, if anyone can offer rides, please call the office at 352-597-1456.

SOUL SEEKERS 2021 – 2022

Where is God in your life? Where do you see God in your life?

Soul Seekers allows for time for you to connect with God. In this hectic world it can be hard to find that time. This group allows for that time to be nurtured. There are many resources and items used in this time. One of our main resources for this year will be the book *When the Heart Speaks Listen* by Lerita Coleman Brown. Her writing is profound, challenging, and also comforting. She shares her story openly. I (Michelle) have had the privilege and opportunity to work with and learn from Lerita on different occasions. The time together at Soul Seekers is a gift you give yourself. In this time, you get to share, explore, support, and encourage others on each person's faith journey.

This year we will have three opportunities to explore your relationship with God.

In Person: The in person group will meet the third Mondays of the month in the Sanctuary from 7 to 8:30 pm. The first in person meeting will be, Monday, September 20 .

Zoom: The second opportunity will be through zoom. The zoom group will meet the second Saturday from 10 to 11:30 am. The first zoom session will be Saturday, October 9. The freedom of zoom is you can join from wherever you are.

Prerecorded: The third opportunity will be the ability to access a prerecorded presentation available on the first Friday of the month. The first prerecorded presentation will be Friday, September 3. It will be a 30 minute presentation.

For questions or more information please reach out to Michelle Mehan at 727-267-1047, shelltbf@hotmail.com or Kim Mehan at 727-207-00071 or kmehan57@gmail.com.

ALTAR GUILD. Next scheduled meeting will be July 26 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. We meet the fourth Monday of the month at 10:00AM. 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 purchase flowers for the altar in honor or memory of a loved one or event, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex on the kiosk. You can also call the office at 352-597-1456. Cost is \$25.00. 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 flowers not available? If the date of your celebration/memorial is already taken, please consider the following suggestions as expressions of gratitude:

Goat and a flock of chicks

With this gift a family gains access to an ongoing supply of eggs from their chickens and protein-packed milk from their goat. Even better, extra eggs and dairy products can be sold at the market for a steady income. \$60

Chicks

When chicks grow up to become chickens, their eggs not only provide an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals — they can also help start a small business and generate a steady source of income. \$10 (Help the farm grow! Add a rooster for an additional \$15).

Fish farm

Give your neighbors a fish, and they'll eat for a day. Give your neighbors a community fish farm, and they'll eat for a lifetime.

A fish farm begins with a pond, training and a few fast-growing fish, such as tilapia. The entire community benefits from a longtime supply of fish, rich in vitamins, minerals, and protein. Community fish farm \$250. Share of a fish farm \$50.

Cow

One dairy cow can produce a few gallons of milk each day. We know that milk “does a body good,” providing a calcium-packed source of nutrition for growing children. A family can start a small business selling extra milk, cheese, yogurt, butter, and more. With food, funds, and fertilizer, the gift of a cow has got it all. Cow \$500. Share of a cow \$50.

Please, use a green envelope and specify the gift on your check.

CHRIST IN OUR HOME AND LIVING LUTHERAN - We have received our copies of the July/Aug/Sept issue of Christ in Our Home and July issue of Living Lutheran. If you would like a copy they are available in the narthex, or stop by the office between 9:00AM and 12PM and pick up a copy. A small donation would be appreciated to offset the costs of the devotionals. You can use a green pew card and mark it "devotionals". If you have any questions, or want to make sure copies are still available, please call the office at 352-597-1456.

NLC'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - Listen to Nativity Lutheran's Sunday Worship Service every Sunday night at 6pm. Tune in to WZEU-FM 102.9 on your radio for a broadcast of this week's Sunday Service.

OUTREACH

JULY/AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH

FOOD PANTRY

Nativity Lutheran Church operates a food pantry to help feed those in our community who are in need. Our food pantry is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Donations of non-perishable items are always needed and can be dropped off during church hours Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Money donations are also accepted. You can use the green envelope in the church pew and make sure to note "Food Pantry" on the envelope. For more information, please contact Bonnie Kuester at 352-596-8548.

Our annual shopping day for the **Migrant Workers' Children's Shoes Project** is July 30 in Zephyrhills. It is always a joy to see children shopping for this essential item before the start of the new school year. This mission project is in collaboration with Resurrection (Rez) House Lutheran Church in Dade City. Those who go shopping with the children enjoy a common meal together if time allows. Carpooling available.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

CONFIRMATION CLASS - there will be no confirmation classes during the month of July. We will start up again the end of August. These classes will be in person. More information coming during the month of August.

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.

ALL WOMEN OF NATIVITY SUMMER LUNCHEON. The July luncheon logistics are still being worked on. Details on the luncheon will be communicated as soon as finalized. Thank you for the patience.

DAYS FOR GIRLS will not be meeting in July. Stay turned for announcements regarding August.

CARDS R US - JULY 7 & 14. We will meet to make greeting cards from your used, donated greeting cards on Wednesday, July 7 and 14, 12:30-3:00pm. All are welcome to join us in this fun mission project which offers our creations for a donation. Proceeds are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help those in need. Shop our cards in the narthex and in the Administration Bldg. hallway. A big "thank you" to the congregation for your support. For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.



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.





FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - JULY 10. Susan Nordstrom and Raina McDannold will host Friendship Circle for a potluck at the River Run Condos gazebo on Saturday, July 10. We will meet at 11:30. When arriving at River Run, locate Susan or Raina by last name in the gate call box. Call through the call box and they will remotely open the gate for you. Park near Susan's at 6680 River Run Blvd. in any non-covered parking space. Sub sandwiches, bottled water, plates, and plasticware will be provided. Bring or wear your swimsuit if you'd like to get into the Weeki Wachee from the River Run beach. In the event of rain, we will gather inside at Susan's. Call her at 352-428-1918 for further information.

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 in the Youth Room at 10:00AM. Our meeting in July is on the 15th. Or, if you prefer, the prayer shawls can be made in your home. For information, call Peggy Sanders at 352-382-1781.



ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO A SUMMER BIBLE STUDY AT THE CHURCH ON AUGUST 14TH AT 9:00AM.

There will be 3 sessions written by Kelly Fryer of Women of the ELCA "All Anew: Ready or Not" is the title. She challenges us to consider what we are really asking for when we plead with God for renewal.

Renewal is a process much like giving birth--- beautiful and essential for life but not "nice". Like giving birth, renewal produces pain, requires sacrifice and makes a really big mess" Fryer says.

Please reserve by calling Mary McDowall (352-503-7215) or the church office (352-597-1456). This Bible Study is also published in "Gather" magazine, the magazine of Women of the ELCA.

TRINKETS AND TREASURES PART 3 - We are planning to have another sale on Saturday, October 23 (and possibly Friday, October 22). Volunteers will be needed to help make this event a success. I am hoping to schedule a meeting sometime in early August. Please stay tuned for more information on the meeting as well as when donations will be accepted.

If you have any questions, please call Evelyn Galli at 352-556-2820 or 516-909-3119.



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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June 18, 2021

Nativity Lutheran Church
6363 Commercial Way
Weeki Wachee, FL 34613

Dear friends in Christ at Nativity Lutheran Church:

Thank you for the Mission Support of \$2,194.23 you have shared with Christ's wider Church between February 1 and April 30, 2021 through and as part of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Your continued support, especially during these challenging times, is greatly appreciated. With your support we can continue our work as church together, so that we might joyfully serve our God in service, sacrifice, and celebration.

Mission Support helps us participate in the miracles of the Christ as we respond to the needs before us. It helps us train up leaders and pastors, feed people in need, respond to natural disasters, provide resources to congregations for their viability and growth, and the list goes on and on. Your Mission Support is vital to who we are and what we can do.

At our 2019 Treasurer's Gatherings, the majority preferred to receive quarterly statements rather than only one at the end of the year. We look to honor that request. We ask that you please make sure that our records are correct.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry. We pray faithfully for your congregation. Let us know how we might be of greater service to you.

In God's Peace,

The Rev. Pedro M. Suarez, Bishop
Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA

THANK YOU NOTE

As you know, each Sunday we record the service and it is then put on YouTube and the Nativity website. Not only does this give our members who cannot make it to church the opportunity to watch it, it allows Nativity to reach out to others around the world. After the June 27 service, the Nativity office received the following email from someone in Iowa. It is nice to know that our online service has touched someone.

Dear Nativity,

My name is Abby and I live with my husband and daughter in a midwestern college town called Ames, IA. You don't yet know me, but I have come to be aware of and share in the joy of your online ministry via YouTube, specifically weekly church services from your parish in Weeki Wachee. For several weeks now, my daughter and I have shared special time together in worship with you. Due especially to our risk profile, we have been in isolation for the better part of a year and a half and unable to safely attend in-person worship due to Covid. I was raised in the ELCA and am the granddaughter of a Lutheran pastor. I take a special pride in identifying as a Lutheran, celebrating the rituals of the church, and sharing the Word with my four-year-old. As for many of us, this year has brought incredible trial and suffering but also immense wisdom and healing, including the fact that God brought me to you.

Perhaps needless to say, sharing in the activity of your community, listening to the Word, and meditating on Pastor Mattei's message have been nourishing and healing beyond what words can adequately express. I want to be sure I share this message with you.

Thank you. I would be very grateful if this note could be passed on to Pastor Mattei as well. Also, feel welcome to share with the community.

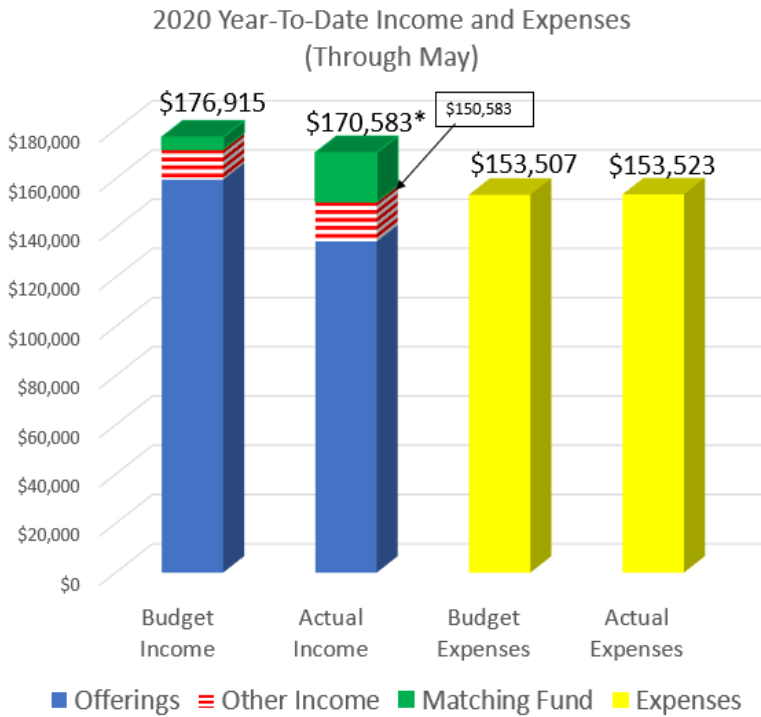
The Peace of the Lord be with each of you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Wishing you abundant health this year.

Sincerely,

Abigail DeRoin

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY

MAY 2021



* 2021 income includes \$20,000 Matching Fund. Actual without Matching Fund = \$150,583.

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 **August** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **July 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 who hasn't been able to attend church for some time, you may be the only link between them and Nativity. We would appreciate it if you kept 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. Should you or anyone you know 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.

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)

July Birthdays

Bonnie Kuester	7/1
Marion Attaviano	7/3
Kathy Olson	7/7
Harold Reber	7/7
Christopher Wright	7/7
Douglas Beals Jr.	7/9
Darlene Christensen	7/9
Joan Rasper	7/10
Paul Chipko	7/12
Rhonda Nelson	7/14
Irmgard Timm	7/15
Carol Fleschner	7/16
Anna Hupp	7/16
Jessica Stephan	7/19
Jessica Miller	7/20
Elizabeth Capell	7/22
Bob Schneider	7/23
James Glessner	7/24



Tim Noe	7/24
Nina Vaznelis	7/24
Gilbert Herr	7/25
Lynn Cawley	7/26
Barbara Strohl	7/26
Richard Posewitz	7/27
John Gauthier	7/29
Mary Reber	7/30
Arthur Alt	7/31
Frani Barnes	7/31
Janet Jones	7/31
Jacob Sandals	7/31

July Wedding Anniversaries

Cindy and Bernie Rogers	7/2
Judith and Frank Alessio	7/5
Ruth Ann and Don Hoy	7/6
Jane and Scott Henkel	7/11
Michelle and Kim Mehan-Conklin	7/18
Asta and Carl Lundh	7/20
Darla and Kenneth Strey	7/23
Lynne and Chestley Merritt	7/29

