



Happenings at NLC

August 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



Upcoming Events

August 14 - WON Bible Study

August 16 - Council Meeting

August 18 - Prayer of Intercession
for the country

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

AUGUST PRAYER OPPORTUNITY

Is there a prayer need on your heart? Are you seeking peace for yourself, your family, your country? Are you worried about someone's health? Job security? Are you concerned about the violence in our country and around the world? If there is anything that weighs you down, come and bring it to the Lord in prayer. Please, mark your calendar, plan to attend, and invite a friend to the following event:

- **August 18** - A Prayer of Intercession for the country, 6:00 PM

For your planning, the service lasts between 30 and 45 minutes.

Please be aware the Sunday worship schedule will change in the fall.

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, shelltbfb@hotmail.com or Kim Mehan at 727-207-00071 or kmehan57@gmail.com.

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.

WORSHIP EMPHASIS

We have a beautiful sanctuary. The architecture of our sanctuary lends itself beautifully to a dramatic opening of the worship service from the back. It is there that we have our Baptismal Font and it is from there that we begin our liturgy praising the Triune One who saved us from the slavery of sin and through the waters of baptism brought us to the promised land of new life in the Spirit of Christ. That signifies the beginning of our Christian journey. From there the worship leaders process towards the altar where the sacrifice of Jesus' love is remembered and celebrated. The leaders follow the processional cross, symbolically in the footsteps of Jesus, representing the whole people of God. We do not follow any other leader but the One who gave his life so that we may have life. Soon after the processional cross, the lector or reader carries the Lectionary (a selection of Lessons or readings from the Bible). This is the Word of God, the light of the world, well planted in our midst to which we raise our eyes and follow with our heart. On Easter, the Paschal (pasach in Hebrew meaning Passover) Candle, is also added to the procession and smaller candles may surround the Bible, not to add light as in a pre-industrial world, but to enhance the esthetics and the ceremonial. The Lutheran Church is a liturgical Church drawing from the ancient liturgical beauty and meaning of the early Church. Liturgy is not a monopoly of the Orthodox or the Catholic Churches. We can all use the liturgy to enhance our sense of beauty and communicate the meaning of our worship. Smaller churches with a different architectural setup may need to adapt the vast and rich liturgy to the local needs.

Some of us may be used to a simpler form of liturgy and some others are pretty accustomed to our current format from their previous churches. There is no one way of worshipping. As a matter of fact, we are experimenting with blending different styles, across time and space, from the vast ecumenical and inter-denominational liturgical repertoire. All are invited to let themselves be carried by the flow of the liturgy and let go of the form we think should be the norm.

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.

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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

CONFIRMATION CLASS - We will start up again the end of August. These classes will be in person. More information coming in mid-August.



GRADUATES - The following graduates were recognized during the July 25th worship service:

Ethan Chelf, Cullen Scott McDannold, Sean Patterson,
Sarah Rosten, David Smith, Jason Spina, and
Morgan Vanselous

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 ARE INVITED TO A SUMMER BIBLE STUDY AT THE CHURCH ON AUGUST 14TH AT 9:00AM. LUNCH WILL BE SERVED.

The name of our bible study is **Just L.I.F.E.** (Liberation Is For Everyone) by Angela T. Ikhaber.

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.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - no meeting in August.

CARDS R US - We will gather to create greeting cards made from your donated, used greeting cards on Wednesday, August 4, 12:30-3:00pm. We are looking for new crafters to join us in this fun endeavor and help us provide funds for Pastor Mattei's Discretionary Fund through donations at our card kiosks in the narthex and in the admin bldg. hallway (larger kiosk). For further info, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.



FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - AUGUST 7.

Friendship Circle will see the Matt Damon movie "Stillwater" on Saturday, August 7. This drama/thriller is about an American oil-rig roughneck who travels to Marseille to visit his estranged daughter, in prison for a murder she claims she didn't commit. He builds a new life for himself as he makes it his personal mission to exonerate her. Details on which theater and the movie time (a matinee) will be provided by e-mail once schedules are released that week. Following the movie, we will share a meal at Cody's Roadhouse if we see the movie at the Spring Hill 8 or at Buffet City if we see it at The Beacon. If anyone other than Friendship Circle wishes to attend, please 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.



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 August is on the 19th. Or, if you prefer, the prayer shawls can be made in your home. For information, call Peggy Sanders at 352-382-1781.



TRINKETS AND TREASURES PART 3 - We are planning to have another sale on Saturday, October 23 (and possibly Friday, October 22). Volunteers, as well as a co-chairperson, will be needed to help make this sale a success. I am also looking for someone to help me co-chair this fundraising event. A meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10, at 7pm in Winemiller Hall to discuss this fundraising opportunity.

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



Fellowship

Yea, we are back. We are ready to start our activities once a month starting in September. Our first will be a MYSTERY DINNER, Thursday, September 23rd. We meet at church at 4:00PM. If you have never attended one here is how it works: we will start selling deposits of \$10 per person on Sunday, August 15th. The best way is to just write a check, but cash works too. When you arrive at church on September 23rd you will receive your deposit back. Then you will participate in appetizers, yes including the famous meatballs. You will receive directions to the restaurant, and off you go. At the restaurant just say Patti sent you and enjoy. You will receive separate checks and have a great evening.

Our official first Fellowship Meeting will be Tuesday September 14th at 10:30AM, we welcome any new members who wish to join us or just check us out. On Tuesday, August 10th at 10:30AM we will be meeting to put together the new tablecloths, the fabric which we ordered a long time ago. It is all here and matches. We welcome anyone who wishes to join for this.

It is so exciting to be able to start to go back to normal, we look forward to a season of fun, please join us.

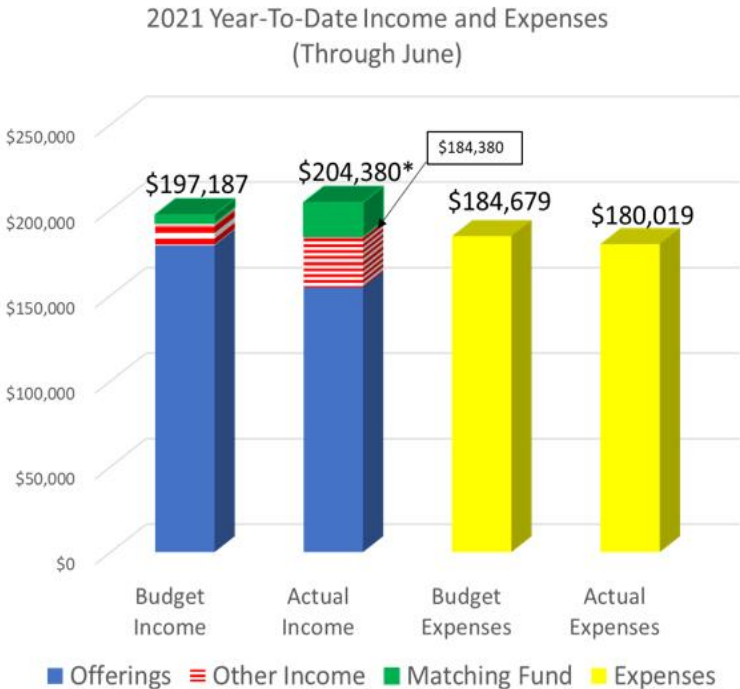
If you have any questions, don't hesitate to give me a call.

Patti Cotter - 352-797-9682

MASK UPDATE

Given the recent surge in COVID-19 cases (and the latest CDC guidelines) we are recommending, but not making it mandatory, the wearing of masks during worship service. This is for your own protection as well as others.

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY JUNE 2020



* 2021 income includes \$20,000 Matching Fund. Actual without Matching Fund = \$184,380.

Questions: jane.henkel@nlcww.org

REMINDERS

OFFICE HOURS - Monday through Friday - 9AM-12N

INTERNET 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 **September** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **August 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.

August Birthdays

Timothy Cotter	8/2
Connie Wendrzycki	8/2
Jared Gould	8/3
Peggy Sanders	8/3
Kenneth Strey	8/3
Michael Brennan	8/5
Joan Herr	8/6
Hailey Patterson	8/6
Linda Thelan	8/6
Candice Kochounian	8/9
Mary Smart	8/9
Zachery Burchhardt	8/11
Jane Castro	8/12
Victoria Page	8/13
Jane Henkel	8/14
Ellen Lapinski	8/14
Nancy Salzbach	8/14
Beury Simons	8/15
Claude Major	8/16
Jean Drach	8/18



Ian MacLean	8/20
Cheryl Wolfe	8/20
Elizabeth Deon	8/22
Kristine Kopitzke	8/22
Robert Oliver Sr.	8/22
Diane Dietz	8/23
Karin Glessner	8/25
Gregory Massey	8/25
Giuseppe Mattei	8/25
Patti Cotter	8/27
Donald Taylor	8/28

August Wedding Anniversaries

Frani & Larry Barnes	8/2
Kathleen & Arthur Olsen	8/6
Michele & Robert Oliver Sr.	8/8
Julie & Gary Hopkins	8/15
Judith & James Nelson	8/18
Margaret & Stephen King	8/19
Gloria & Al Wright	8/19
Carol & Kendall White	8/21



Karen & Clarence Crawford	8/22
Eleanor & William Hockings	8/22
Diane & Art Alt	8/24
Sandy & Guy Peeters	8/24
Susan & Donald Taylor	8/31

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.

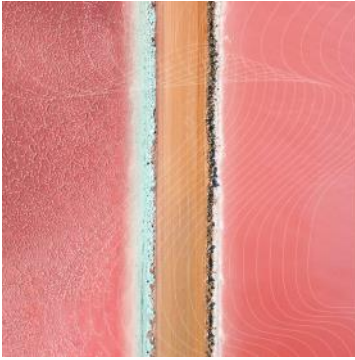
Being responsible to God: through the creative use of our income, possessions, time and talent; recognizing that loving our neighbor is not so much a feeling as it is an act of will, and that sharing what we have on behalf of the Kingdom of God is only giving back what was already God's to being with.

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)



Hate cannot drive out hate;
only love can do that.

~
Martin Luther King Jr.