



Happenings at NLC

January 2022

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



Upcoming Events

- January 16 -** Congregational Annual Meeting
- January 23 -** Council Members Installed during service
- January 18-25 -** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- January 30 -** Thankoffering Service
WON Meeting & Luncheon

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

RESULTS OF DECEMBER ELECTIONS

Elected to Congregation Council:

Linda Hengesh	three-year term
Todd Holly	three-year term
Pat Squires	three-year term
Clarence Crawford	one-year term
Linda Russo	one-year term

Elected to the Lay Leadership Committee:

Jill Helgeson	three-year term
Karen Napoli	three-year term
Al Wright	two-year term

Elected to the Mission Endowment Committee:

Carlan Helgeson	three-year term
Bonnie Kuester	three-year term

Elected as 2021 Synod Assembly Delegates:

Claude and Germaine Major, and Mark Major

In addition, the 2022 Church Budget was approved.

At the December 12 Council meeting, the Council voted for the 2022 Officers of the Church. Those elected are:

Ed Lewis	President
Linda Hengesh	Vice-president
Pat Squires	Financial Secretary
Evelyn Galli	Treasurer

The position of Secretary remains open.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

JANUARY 18–25, 2022

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 was selected by the Middle East Council of Churches and originates from the churches in Lebanon. Present times in Lebanon are extremely difficult and economically disastrous. All this combined with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have made the situation quite stressful. The power of prayer in solidarity with those who suffer is a demonstration of Christian unity and a sign of communion.

The theme, taken from the second chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew, is the Epiphany. Each year in January, the Church recalls the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem, highlighting God's invitation to all of humanity to a new covenant in the Incarnation of Christ. In the Eastern Churches, Epiphany is joined to the mystery of the Baptism of Christ, a baptism all Christians hold in common as testimony to their faith in the Son of God.

Check printed and online announcements with instructions to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 18-25, 2022.

ALTAR GUILD – January 24, 2022, 10:00AM. We invite anyone (male or female) to attend one of our meetings 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.**

**THANKOFFERING SERVICE – Sunday, January 30, 2022,
9:30AM.**

More information about this service will be communicated mid-January. Plans are still being discussed.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

THANK YOU to everyone involved in the beautification of our sanctuary for the celebration of the birth of Jesus!





NLC'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - Every service is easily accessible from Nativity's website. **ALSO**, Sunday night at 6pm, tune in to WZEU-FM 102.9 on your radio for a rebroadcast of our previous weeks' Sunday Service. If you are Interested in sponsoring one of the services broadcast on WZEU in memory or honor of someone, cost is \$25 and place your donation in a green envelope and mark it WZEU and place in the offering plate.

OUTREACH

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.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP #24401

(Leader Beth Hunt)

The girls scouts did a community food drive for November and donated what they received to our food pantry.



FRIDAY TOPS GROUP

The Friday TOPS group collected goods for Nativities food pantry for Christmas. 20 Families will receive a meal with the can goods and a smoked ham.



2022 ACTION THRIVENT TEAM PROJECTS

1. Sarah Circle - material for shawls
2. Girl Scout Troop - cookies for military
3. Trinkets & Treasures - food for volunteers
4. Rez House Migrant Children - school supplies
5. Autistic Children - clothing, snacks, other needs

6. Trinkets & Treasures - food for volunteers
7. Crafty Ladies - material
8. Girl Scout Troop #24407 - nuts & fruit for the military
9. NLC Food Pantry
10. NLC Food Pantry - Thanksgiving meal
11. Angel Tree - food for a Christmas meal
12. Lighthouse for the Blind - dots for equipment
13. Weeki Wachee Winds - music/stands/instruments
14. NLC Fellowship Project
15. Police & Fire Department - stuffed animals
16. Friday TOPS - food pantry
17. Homeless - gloves/socks/blankets
18. Days for Girls - material for hygiene kits
19. NLC Choir - music
20. ELCA Gifts - safe water/goat/seeds
21. N.A.M.I. - booklet
22. Salvation Army - food
23. Weekend Blessings - canned goods
24. Golden Rainbow Ranch - arts and crafts
25. NLC Cards R Us - material
26. Jericho Men - food/clothing
27. Hernando Animal Shelter - food
28. Pastors Discretionary Fund - gas/motel
29. NLC VBS - various projects
30. Holy Ground Shelter - food/clothing/etc...

Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex for these projects.
Any questions, please call Ernie Horeis at 352-666-7584.



Florida-Bahamas Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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813.876.7660 ♦ fbsynod.com ♦ info@fbsynod.org

November 26, 2021

Nativity Lutheran Church 07764
6363 Commercial Way
Weeki Wachee, FL 34613

Dear friends in Christ at Nativity Lutheran Church:

Thank you for the Mission Support of \$6,570.38 you have shared with Christ's wider Church between February 1 and October 31, 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



Florida-Bahamas Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

December 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!

I greet you with joy in my heart because the Holy Spirit is moving throughout our synod and our congregations. To paraphrase John 1:5 - The light (Christ) shines in the darkness and the darkness shall not overcome him!

Mission Support from congregations like yours provides critical help as we share the light of Christ with those in our very different communities:

- The Community Church at Babcock Ranch, an all-green congregation,
- Palms Deaf Church in Palm Coast a mission for the deaf,
- Mision Luterana Guadalupe in Fort Lauderdale, dedicated to reaching our Hispanic community, and
- Emmanuel Community Park in Naples, a growing community that worships at a park. The vision for this park includes a community services center and worship facilities.

Here are a few more examples of the ministry that happens because of your Mission Support:

- The Bishop and the Synod staff help countless individuals with answers and resources on matters such as finances, taxes, legal questions, digital meetings, mission starts, congregational revitalization, ordinations, installations pastoral calls, conflict resolutions, continuing education, counseling, and so much more.
- Your support allows for the creation of worship resources, campus ministries, global missions, youth, and young adult resources (like planning the National Youth Gathering), racial justice ministries, the advocacy and corporate social responsibility offices, administration for disaster response, outdoor ministries, and world hunger initiatives.

I would like you and your congregation to help us continue to serve our communities in these very critical areas. Please commit to:

1. **Calling on God:** Please pray regularly for the work our congregations do in our synod. Pray we continue to minister to those in need. Pray for the ministry of church wherever it may be.
2. **Connect:** Join us for the Annual Assembly, Conference on Ministry, and other critically important gatherings as we, together, discern the call Christ has for our congregations.
3. **Contribute:** Be a part of the ministry that is happening in your synod. Challenge your congregation to give at least a tithe (10%) of your giving so our congregations together, as the synod, can meet the needs in these uncertain times and proclaim Jesus Christ to the world.

I am humbled to be a part of such an incredible synod. God Bless you and your congregation.

The Rev. Pedro Suárez, Bishop

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL is open to children ages 3 and up following the worship service. Check in with Ms. Linda Russo. Masks are required.

CONFIRMATION CLASS - Our students meet every Sunday following the worship service. Due to some family accommodations, the class will be conducted in the church library one Sunday, and online with following Sunday. The students will be studying the Christian Scriptures (aka the New Testament), and will be making their Affirmation of Baptism (formerly known as Confirmation) on Pentecost Day, June 5, 2022.

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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - Friendship Circle will see the 2021 version of the *West Side Story* movie and share a meal on **Saturday, January 8**. Members will be notified of the time, theater and restaurant on the 6th, when movie schedules are released. All are welcome. If other than Friendship Circle members want to join us, please call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

CARDS R US - Cards R Us friends will meet on first and second Wednesdays in **January, on the 5th and 12th**, from 12:30pm-3:00pm. To help with our mission of donating all proceeds from the cards offered in the narthex and administration building hallway to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, please join us. It's a chance to get creative. And a big thanks for selecting your greeting cards from our kiosks. Contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918 for information.

TRINKETS & TREASURES - There will be a meeting on **January 10th at 11am** in Winemiller Hall. We will start accepting items for donations on Mondays and Tuesdays only beginning January 24th from 9am-12pm (sale dates are Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2). If you have any questions you may contact Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - next meeting will be **Wednesday, January 13 & 27, 2022, at 9:00AM**. 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.

MARY JOY CIRCLE - **JANUARY 13th at 12:30PM**. All women of Nativity Lutheran Church are invited to the Mary Joy Circle bible study. For questions about this ministry you can call Jean Drach at 352-428-0834.

THE NATIVITY CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT will resume on **Sunday, January 16, 2022**, at Hernando Oaks Golf Club (5230 Delacroix Dr, Brooksville, FL 34604.) Please be at the course by 1:30PM. Tee time is 2:00PM sharp. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. For questions, please contact Jim Runyan at 609-385-6679, or email jimrunyan49@yahoo.com.

SARAH CIRCLE - Crocheters and knitters, cash donations for yarn, or yarn itself. If you enjoy crocheting or knitting, please join Sarah Circle on the third Thursday of the month in the Youth Room at 10:00AM. **Our meeting is January 20th.** Or, if you prefer, the prayer shawls can be made in your home. For information, call Peggy Sanders at 352-382-1781.

WOMEN OF NATIVITY MEETING AND POT LUCK LUNCHEON - SUNDAY, JANUARY 30TH. After the Thankoffering Service, the WON will meet in Winemiller Hall for a meeting and pot luck luncheon. **All WON are welcome!** For questions about this ministry you can call Jean Drach at 352-428-0834.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

PATTER FROM PATTI

Hope you all had a wonderful and safe Holiday time. We were so excited about all of the folks that came to the Mystery Dinner. It was just like old times. We are still planning ahead, or trying to.

PASTA/TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT - SATURDAY, JANUARY 15th, 5:00PM. THIS EVENT IS CANCELED. Because of the increase of Covid we are postponing the Pasta/Team trivia Night. If things improve by February we hope to have it then. Please stay safe.

FEBRUARY - Once we get closer to February we will see if we proceed with a movie night. If we do, it will be on a Saturday and free. It will be on the huge screen Art Alt donated. We will offer popcorn and drinks. If you have a suggestion for a movie, please send it to me.

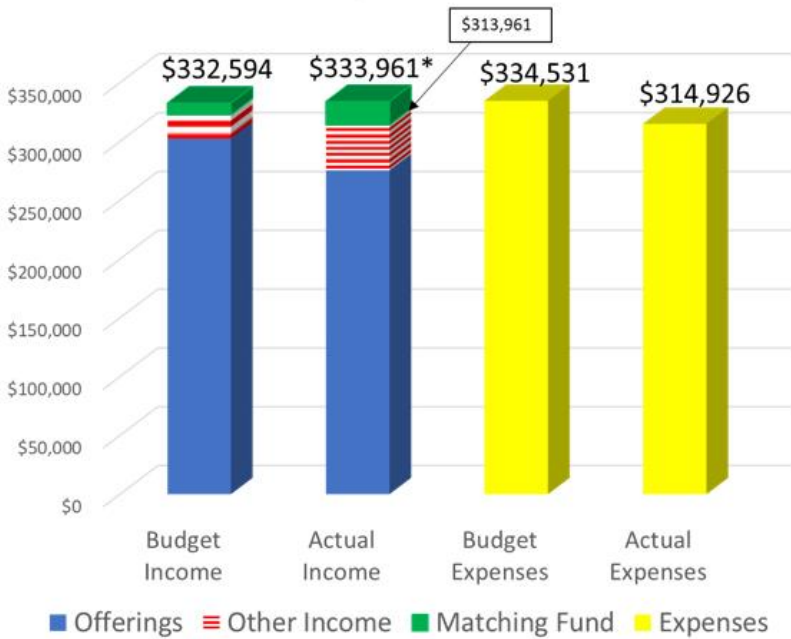
If you are interested in joining the Fellowship Committee, we meet the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30AM, come and join us.

Any questions give me a call.

Patti Cotter, 352-797-9682

**FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY
REPORT NOVEMBER 2021**

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



* 2021 income includes \$20,000 Matching Fund. Actual without Matching Fund = \$313,961

Questions: jane.henkel@nlcww.org



Hernando Harmonizers Present
“Music through the Years”
Saturday, February 5, 2022
2:00PM
at Nativity Lutheran Church

Admission is free. Tickets are required.
A love offering will be collected.

You can pick up tickets in the narthex before and after the 9:30AM Sunday service, or you can stop by the church office weekdays between 9AM - 12PM. For more information, please call the office at 352-597-1456.

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

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)

January Birthdays

Henry Wittschieben	1/1
Elaine Malone	1/2
Viola Broda	1/4
Jennifer Johnson	1/6
William Schneider	1/6
Robert McDowall	1/7
Stephanie Mattei	1/10
Pam Rogers	1/13
Rebecca Hanneman	1/15
Michelle Mehan-Conklin	1/15
Theresa Halgren	1/18
JoAnne Berg	1/19
Vivian Deon	1/23
Pauline Dougan	1/23
Philip Schroeder	1/24
Ruth Goodwin	1/29
Margaret Spina	1/31



January Wedding Anniversaries

Joyce & Russ Colombo 1/28

