



Happenings at NLC

December 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

Congregational Meeting

December 12th at 10:45AM

Longest Night Service

December 21st at 7:00PM

Christmas Eve Service

December 24th at 7:00PM

Upcoming Events

**December 5 - Weeki Wachee Band
Concert**

December 11 - Angel Tree Party

**January 16 - Congregational Annual
Meeting**

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



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www.nlcww.org

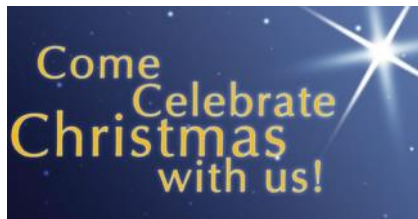
SPIRITUAL LIFE



While most of the world rushes to celebrate Christmas, the church observes the season of Advent, four weeks of preparation and anticipation beginning Sunday, November 28. We are waiting not only for our celebration of Christ's birth but also for his second coming.

Join us each Sunday in Advent as we will light a candle on the Advent wreath, and journey toward the joy of the Christmas season.

MID-WEEK ADVENT WORSHIP: December 1, 8, 15, & 22, you are invited to join in an online worship service (an email will be sent out with the link). There will be music featuring Holden Evening prayer, a scripture passage and a message. We hope you will join us as we prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ. Please reach out to Michelle Mehan, ELCA Deacon with any questions, shelltbfb@hotmail.com.



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - December 24, 2021, at 7:00PM.

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the World. We strongly request you wear a face mask if you have not been vaccinated.

“THE LONGEST NIGHT”

Tuesday, December 21, 7:00PM

Nativity Lutheran Church

Have you experienced loss of a loved one this year, loss of a job, loss of a dream, loss of what might have been?

Do the thoughts of Christmas bring anxiety, hopelessness, doubt, emptiness, loneliness?

You are welcome and invited to our longest night service. As we recognize that the Christmas season is not a joyous time for all we must be open to the possibility and the working of the Spirit to offer healing to those who have feelings of sadness, loss, or brokenness. Our longest night service is for you.

ALL Welcome!

Questions? Please call Michelle Mehan-Conklin at 727-267-1047.

POINSETTIA ORDERS - Poinsettia plants will decorate our sanctuary. If you have been with us in the past, you know how beautiful that looks. You may contribute to the purchase of one or more plants and help decorate the sanctuary. We will have **50** (currently 32 left) 6.5" potted plants (red with gold foil) **\$8.00 each**, and **3** 10" potted plants (white with gold foil) **\$20.00 each**. Red plants can be taken after the Christmas Eve service, the white plants stay on the altar until January 2, 2022. Envelopes are available in the narthex or church office. The plants are on a first come first served basis. You can also call the office (352-597-1456) to reserve your poinsettia.



ALTAR GUILD – Altar Guild will not meet in December. Meetings will resume in January and will be on the 4th Monday of the month 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.

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 week's Sunday Service. If you are interested in sponsoring one of the services broadcast on WZEU in memory or honor of someone, the cost is \$25. Place your donation in a green envelope and mark it WZEU and put it in the offering plate.

OUTREACH

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH -

ANGEL TREE. It starts with a gift and leads to lives transformed through Jesus Christ!! And that is what it is all about, one small gift, one story of Jesus, and one loving smile. Makes one small child feel loved. The year 2021 has been a difficult one for many. Just think of the child who has one or maybe both of his or her parents in jail. No visits, no good night kisses. Please be so kind to take an envelope off the Angel Tree in the narthex, and place your donation in the offering plate. Thank you for your continued support for Prison Fellowship. ~Linda Russo

TROMPETER FUND GRANT FORMS AVAILABLE -

Applications for 2022 grants from the David Trompeter and Dorothy Marie Trompeter Endowment Fund are now available in the church office. The applications must be returned to the church by December 31, 2021. Trompeter Fund grants are made to supplement “worthwhile ministries of Nativity Lutheran Church” and may not be used for ongoing budgeted programs or building programs of the church. The guideline rankings used for determining a grant include meeting human needs for food, water, and shelter; alleviating human trauma; religious education; and enriching the quality of life. Applications may be picked up in the church office or requested to be sent by mail by calling the office at 352-597-1456. For questions about the grant process, please contact Carlan Helgeson of the Mission Endowment Committee at cdhelgeson@gmail.com.

ANGEL TREE PARTY - Saturday, December 11, 2020, 1PM - 4PM in Winemiller Hall.

We will be hosting a Christmas party for children whose parents may be incarcerated or who are deemed economically disadvantaged. Last year the participation we received from the Nativity family was wonderful. We hope you can join us.



The Angel Tree is located in the narthex. If you would like to make a donation to this ministry, please take an envelope off the tree and place it in the offering plate.

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Completed

1. Sarah Circle - material for shawls for the ill/needly
2. Girl Scout Troop - cookies for military
3. Trinket & Treasures (April) - 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 - shelving for closet
8. Girl Scout Troop #24407 - nuts & fruit for the military
9. Mission Endowment - dinner

Approved

1. Food Pantry - Thanksgiving bag of food
2. Angel Tree - xmas gifts, food, quilts for inmates children
3. Lighthouse for the Blind - food shopping to prepare a meal for independent living
4. Weeki Wachee Winds - purchase music, stands, old instruments
5. Nativity - healing after loss reading material
6. Police & Fire Department - stuffed animals

Open Projects

1. Friday TOPS - matching funds for Food Pantry
2. Rez House - Food Pantry
3. Hygiene Kit - nursing home
4. N.A.M.I. - educational material
5. School Supplies - food pantry children

GIFT IDEAS FOR THE UPCOMING FESTIVITIES - Please consider the social purpose ELCA Good Gifts: <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>. Also, keep in mind the Church's outreach to the suffering people of the world. Explore the ELCA's Disaster Response page at <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

CONFIRMATION CLASS - Our next class will be an on-line class on December 5 at 11 a.m., and return in-person on December 12. We need those two classes to finish the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). No Confirmation class on December 19 or 26.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL - will be held every Sunday at 10:45AM following the 9:30AM worship service. Class will be in Al Lien Hall. Masks required.

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.

CARDS R US - DECEMBER 1st, 12:30PM - 3:00PM. Our Cards R Us October BOGO sale netted us over \$55! Trinkets and Treasures shoppers helped. Thanks to everyone! Your donations provide funds for Pastor Mattei's Discretionary Fund, helping those with one-time emergencies. Browse our kiosks in the narthex and administration bldg. hallway for your cards: Christmas, birthday, sympathy, thinking of you, get well, etc. To help with this mission, and have fun at the same time, you are invited to join us December 1, 12:30-3:00, in Winemiller Hall to make greeting cards from your used, donated cards. For information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - next meeting will be Wednesday, December 9, 2021 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 - DECEMBER 9th at 12:30PM. All women of Nativity Lutheran Church are invited to the Mary Joy Circle meeting on December 9th at 12:30PM. We will use the devotions from Gather magazine on Mary and Elizabeth. A cookie exchange will follow the meeting. Each person is requested to bring 2 dozen cookies for the exchange. For questions about this ministry you can call Jean Drach at 352-428-0834.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - DECEMBER 14. Libby and John Capell have invited Friendship Circle to celebrate a Christmas potluck luncheon at their home in Pasco County on Tuesday, December 14, at 12:30PM. This will be an outdoor get-together, weather permitting. Attendees are asked to RSVP and to coordinate their dishes with Libby (817-266-4372). Libby and John will provide the entree, potatoes and vegetable. They are asking the rest of us to bring a cold appetizer or cold salad to share, plus 2 dozen cookies for dessert and for a cookie exchange. In lieu of exchanging Christmas gifts, we will take a goodwill offering to purchase goats and other needed animals, seeds, etc. from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. These gifts will support ELCA'S World Hunger sustainable development project in Haiti. The Capells' address is 18775 Heneguen Lane, Spring Hill 34610.

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 December is on the 16th.** Or, if you prefer, the prayer shawls can be made in your home. For information, call Peggy Sanders at 352-382-1781.

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 - TEDDY BEAR PROJECT is again accepting your donations of new (with manufacturer's tag still attached) teddy bears and other stuffed animals. These little critters will be donated to the Hernando County Sheriff's Department for their deputies to give to children traumatized in an accident or involved in other scary events. Stuffed animals will be available at steep discounts after Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter. They may be left with Linda in the office or coordinate with Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

TRINKETS & TREASURES - PART 4. We are hoping to have the next sale in early April. Please do NOT drop off any items without first checking with me as we have a limited amount of space available. (Please do not leave anything outside or in front of the containers.) A meeting is being planned for early January. Stay tuned for more info. Any questions, please call Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119.

THE WEEKI WACHEE WINDS COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND will present their Holiday Concert on Sunday afternoon, **December 5 at 2:00PM in the NLC Sanctuary**. The band is made up of local musicians from high school through post retirement age and rehearses at NLC every Thursday evening in Winemiller Hall. They are directed by NLC member Mark Hengesh. The program will include a variety of seasonal songs including, Sleigh Ride, Jesus Jesus Rest Your Head, Silent Night, a Chanukah Celebration, The Hallelujah Chorus and Go Tell It on the Mountain among many others. The concert is free, but due to limited seating everyone must have a ticket. Donations will be gladly and gratefully accepted. Attendees are requested to wear a mask.

CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS ARE DUE. All ministry teams and committees are asked to turn in an annual report to the church office by December 1. As this was an unusual year, we realize most reports will be very short. Any questions, please call the church office at 352-597-1456.

THE NATIVITY CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT will resume on Sunday, January 16, 2022. Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday!

PATTER FROM PATTI

We are back, so excited to see the number of people who have signed up for the **MYSTERY DINNER on Tuesday Dec. 7th**. You can still leave a deposit of \$10.00 per person which will be returned to you that night. We meet at church at 4:00PM for appetizers, yes including the famous meatballs, and then you will receive directions to the restaurant, where we will have our own room for dinner. Look for me in the narthex to take your deposit.

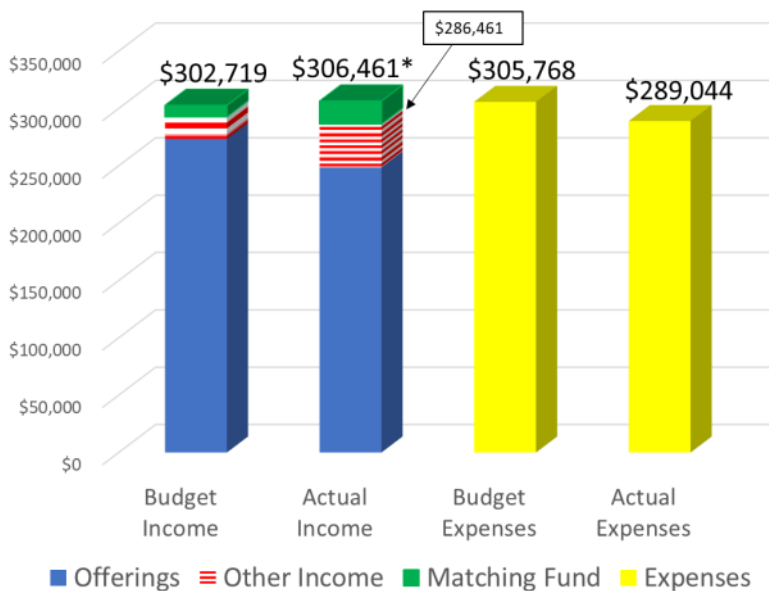
Saturday, January 15th, 5:00PM, PASTA/TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT. Guy Peeters has offered to make his famous pasta sauce, so we know it will be yummy. We will also offer meatballs, salad, bread and ice cream. If you need gluten free, please let us know when you purchase your ticket. Following dinner we will have a team trivia night led by Pat Runyan. She did a wonderful job last time. Of course the winning team will be given great prizes. The tickets will go on sale for \$5.00 on Sunday, December 26th.

In February we are looking into another MOVIE NIGHT. Art Alt surprised us by donating a gigantic screen to us for the last one. Still trying to figure out which movie to get, open to suggestions. We will give out popcorn and drinks again and no charge for the evening. There will be a sign up sheet. We will have picked a movie by the next newsletter and give you the info then.

Fellowship Committee meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30AM, if you are interested come and join us. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and if you are heading out please stay safe. ~Patti Cotter 352-797-9682

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT OCTOBER 2021

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



* 2021 income includes \$20,000 Matching Fund. Actual without Matching Fund = \$286,461.

Questions: jane.henkel@nlcww.org

REMINDERS

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

CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS ARE DUE: All ministry teams and committees are asked to turn in an annual report as soon as possible. Any questions, please call the church office at 352-597-1456.

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

December Birthdays



Terri Breida	12/2		
Will Schantl	12/3		
Lyn Derenski	12/4		
Natalie Goff	12/4		
Johnny Mullins	12/5		
Brenda Mullins	12/5		
Dan Derenski	12/8		
Scott Henkel	12/8	Alfred Korndorfer	12/16
Crystal Burchardt	12/9	Desiree Mattei	12/16
Gayle Howland	12/9	Janet DeVico	12/21
Ann Kopp	12/9	Karen Napoli	12/23
Nancy Siegert	12/9	Scott LaFranca	12/24
Sara Moore	12/9	Jack Page	12/27
James Nelson	12/10		
Suzanne Chelf	12/12		

December Wedding Anniversaries

Sylvia & Angelo Scebba	12/03
Royale & Tom Pugh	12/06
Joan & Gil Herr	12/21
Ellee & Beury Simons	12/21
JoAnne & Zell Boggus	12/22
Janet & Michael Jones	12/26
Libby & John Capell	12/27
Nelly & Ernest Velez	12/31

