



# Happenings at NLC

January 2023

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



## Upcoming Events

- January 8 -** Council Members Installed (during service)
- January 22 -** Congregational Annual Meeting
- January 18-25 -** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- January 29 -** Thankoffering Service  
WON Meeting & Luncheon

Please visit our website at [www.nlcww.org](http://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](http://www.nlcww.org)

# SPIRITUAL LIFE

**SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS - JANUARY 1, 2023, 9:30AM.** A service of scripture readings and songs that trace the arc of redemption from the Fall to the birth of Christ.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY - JANUARY 18-25, 2023.** Do Good; Seek Justice. (cf. Isaiah 1:17) The theme is from Isaiah 1:17, “Do good; seek justice.” The entire scriptural passage for the theme is Isaiah 1:12-18, lamenting a lack of justice among the People of God. Yet, it also promises redemption by encouraging acts of justice.

The 2023 theme was developed with the assistance of a group of Christians in Minnesota, USA, convened by the Minnesota Council of Churches. Minneapolis, MN became a flashpoint for calls for racial justice and equity during the responses of communities to the George Floyd murder. This received world-wide attention.

In its Introduction to the Theme, the organizers write: “Today, separation and oppression continue to be manifest when any single group or class is given privileges above others. The sin of racism is evident in any beliefs or practices that distinguish or elevate one “race” over another. When accompanied or sustained by imbalances in power, racial prejudice moves beyond individual relationships to the very structures of society – the systemic perpetuation of racism. Its existence has unfairly benefitted some, including churches, and burdened and excluded others, simply due to the color of their skin and the cultural associations based upon perceptions of ‘race’.”

Calling to mind our common Christian commitment to justice and mercy, we pray that the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2023 will be full of moments of conversion of heart, so that “all may be one.”

Daily Bible passages and meditations are available for your private prayer in the narthex.

**THANKOFFERING SERVICE – Sunday, January 29, 2022, 9:30AM.** More information about this service will be communicated mid-January. Plans are still being discussed.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MORNING SERVICE.** THANK YOU to everyone involved in the beautification of our sanctuary for the celebration of the birth of Jesus! We had two services this past Christmas (Eve and Day), and our Altar Guild, with additional volunteers, have done a terrific job!



**ALTAR GUILD – January 23, 2023, 10:00AM.** Members beautify the worship space and prepare the altar for our Sunday celebration. They also set up the sanctuary for the celebration of weddings and for funeral/memorial services. It is always a joy to make the necessary preparations to support everybody's worship experience. We invite anyone (male or female) to attend one of our meetings which is held 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.**

**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.

**NLC'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE** - Access our website, [nlcww.org](http://nlcww.org), to live stream (or play on demand) our service beginning at 9:25am Sunday mornings. 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 basket.

**NAME TAGS** - Please remember to wear your name tag at church. Doing so is of great help to one another and good ministry of hospitality toward visitors.

**WHITE PEW CARDS** - Please take the time to fill out the white pew cards which are located on the back of the pews. **Only one per family is required.** Filling out the cards helps with our attendance records. Thank you!

## OUTREACH

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 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 12:30 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 Janet and Todd Holly at 352-503-6215.

**FRIDAY TOPS GROUP** received a Thrivent Card and purchased food for our food pantry.



## HOW CAN THRIVENT HELP YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Thrivent offers you a variety of ways to get involved and give back to your favorite nonprofit. Consider the following:

**Donate:** You can make a personal donation through Thrivent's online giving platform to any of the more than 45,000 churches and nonprofits in the Thrivent Choice<sup>R</sup> catalog. Thrivent pays the processing fees, so your entire donation goes to your cause.

**Designate:** If you are an eligible Thrivent client with membership, you can direct Choice Dollars<sup>R</sup> to a favorite organization.

**Nominate:** Thrivent clients with membership can nominate churches and nonprofit organizations for enrollment in the Thrivent Choice program. Enrollment allows organizations to receive donations through Thrivent's online giving platform.

**Participate:** You can lead a Thrivent Action Team or join in educational and community-giving events with other clients through your Thrivent Member Network.

Learn about these opportunities and more at [thrivent.com/livegenerously](https://thrivent.com/livegenerously).

**THANK YOU:** Head Counters, Counters, and Data Entry people, for volunteering your time and talent during the calendar year 2022.

Note: If you are interested in joining our Financial Group in 2023, contact Ernie Horeis at 352-600-5906, or Jean Drach at 352-684-1632.

# 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.

**MARY JOY CIRCLE - JANUARY 4th at 9:45AM.** 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.

**CARDS R US JANUARY 4TH AND 11TH, 12:30PM-3:30PM.** Check out the Cards R Us kiosks in the narthex, and the larger one in the administration bldg. hallway. You'll find cards for anniversaries, birthdays, thinking of you, get well, sympathy, etc. Your donations for our cards are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help those in need of a bus ticket, help paying their electric bill, etc. If you'd like to join in this mission project and enjoy being creative, please join us. We'll be making cards on the first and second Wednesdays in January--on the 4th and the 11th--from 12:30PM to 3:00PM in Winemiller Hall. For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

**DAYS FOR GIRLS - next meeting will be Thursday, January 12 & 26, 2023, 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.

**SARAH CIRCLE, JANUARY 19 @ 10:00AM.** Do you know someone who is undergoing a medical procedure, in need of comfort after a loss, desiring to increase their time of prayer or meditation, preparing for marriage, in the midst of an illness, recovering from surgery, or otherwise in need of prayer? ***Prayer shawls are always available. All you need to do is ask!***

When someone receives a prayer shawl, Sarah Circle (the women who sponsor the ministry and make the shawls) also prays for that recipient. We ask you to share only as you are comfortable why you want to give the recipient the gift of prayer so that we may include these requests in our prayers.

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 January 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.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - JANUARY 22, 2023.** The agenda for this meeting will include the Annual Report, and our year-end financial reports from the Financial Secretary and Treasurer. We are asking congregational members to make the time to attend this important meeting which will occur after the 9:30AM service.



**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 28 -**

Friendship Circle's January adventure will be lunch at Mallie Kyla's Cafe and a visit to Boyette's Grove on Saturday, January 28. We'll meet at Mallie Kyla's, 510 E. Liberty Street, Brooksville 34601, at 12:15PM. They are located across the street from the old Roger's Christmas House. From there, we'll go to Boyette's Grove at 4355 Spring Lake Highway, Brooksville 34601. This old Florida attraction includes a museum, zoo, gift shop including citrus, and more. High temperature forecast is 68 degrees. Mallie Kyla's is a small, quaint restaurant, so we'll make reservations; please RSVP to Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918 by Sunday, January 22. To carpool, be at Nativity by 11:30AM. All are more than welcome to join us by RSVPing.

**WOMEN OF NATIVITY MEETING AND POT LUCK LUNCHEON - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29TH.**

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.

**CRAFTY LADIES - Fridays, 9:00AM - 11:00AM.** We are a group of 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.

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

## ***PATTER FROM PATTI***

Happy New Year to all, hope all will be healthy and happy. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who signed up for the Cantata Brunch, I am so proud of our committee they did a fantastic job. My committee is the smallest it has ever been, so we would love to have some additional members, if you are interested, let me know. Here is what we have going on now:

**MYSTERY DINNER Tuesday January 31, meet at church 4:00pm.** Senors, Senoras y Senioritas come to our Mystery Dinner, we meet at church at 4:00pm for appetizers, including the famous meatballs. We then head out in groups to follow the directions to the reasonably priced restaurant, they have good drinks too. If you wish to attend we will start taking \$10.00 deposits on Sunday January 15th. When you arrive at church you will get your deposit refunded. An easy way is to just write a check to Nativity Fellowship, we won't cash it but return it to you. Our Mystery Dinners are always so much fun we know you would enjoy it.

**February Spaghetti Trivia Night.** We have not set a date yet, but will at our next meeting. This year Pat Squire will be doing the Team Trivia contest, with BIG PRIZES. More info in the next newsletter.

**HAMARAMA Saturday, March 18th.** You ask what is Hamarama, we haven't had one for a few years. It is a ham dinner followed by a talent show. We will have details later, but the most important part is we need talent. We are open to anything. So if you are willing, let Donna or I know.

It is so wonderful to be able to have activities again. If you have never attended before NOW IS THE TIME. If you have any questions give me a call @ 352-797-9682. Thank you, Patti Cotter.

## **RESULTS OF DECEMBER ELECTIONS**

### **Elected to Congregation Council:**

Karen Crawford	three-year term
Scott Henkel	three-year term
Linda Russo	three-year term
Mae Haines	one-year term

### **Elected to the Lay Leadership Committee:**

Susan Lee	three-year term
Ed Lewis	three-year term

### **Elected to the Mission Endowment Committee:**

Tim Cotter	three-year term
Robert Rios	three-year term

### **Elected as 2023 Synod Assembly Delegates:**

Evelyn Galli and Ed Lewis

In addition, the 2023 Church Budget was approved.

At the December 19 Council meeting, the Council voted for the 2023 Officers of the Church. Those elected are:

Todd Holly	President
Ed Lewis	Vice President
Pat Squires	Financial Secretary
Evelyn Galli	Treasurer
Linda Hengesh	Secretary

**TRINKETS & TREASURES** - We have set the date for the next Trinkets & Treasurers sale. It will be Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22. We will have a meeting on **Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 11am** in Winemiller Hall and appreciate all who are willing to volunteer to come. We will start accepting items for donations only on Mondays and Tuesdays beginning February 20<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm. There is one exception. If when putting away your holiday decorations you are looking to donate any of those, we will accept them in January. Call Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119 to arrange a convenient time to drop those off. If you have any other questions, you may contact Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119 or Janet Jones at 352-232-1074.



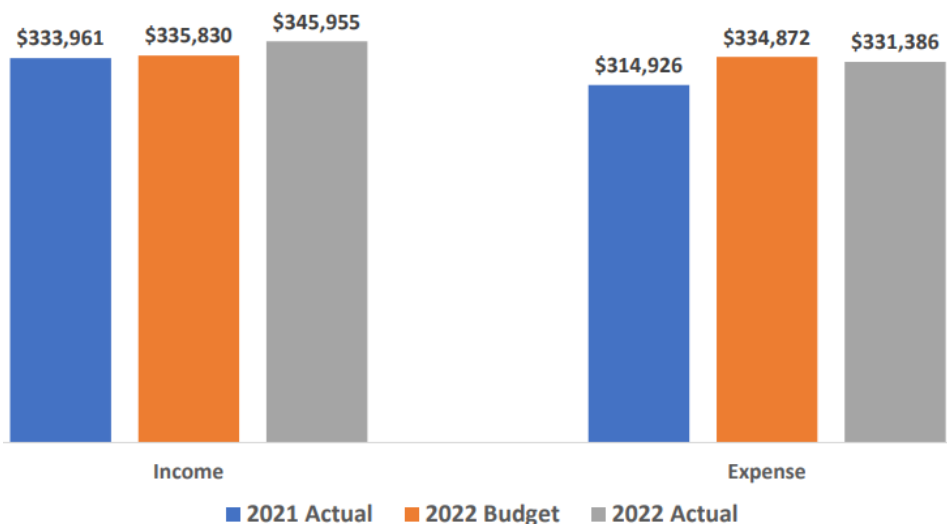
**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Hernando Harmonizers will be presenting a concert at  
Nativity Lutheran Church on  
Sunday, February 19, 2023 — 2:00PM**

Their concerts are always good and it's a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Admission is free. A love offering will be collected. All proceeds go to Nativity. Any questions, please call Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119.

**FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY  
REPORT NOVEMBER 2022**

**2022 YTD Income and Expenses**



If you have any questions, please contact Pat Squires at [patsquires63@gmail.com](mailto:patsquires63@gmail.com).

## REMINDERS

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

**INTERNET 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](mailto: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](http://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. Submissions can be made using a form that can be obtained in the office, or via email to [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) or via the form on the website. This will help resolve any conflicts that may arise.

## January Birthdays

Rick Behan	1/1
Henry Wittschieben	1/1
Elaine Malone	1/2
Jennifer Johnson	1/6
William Schneider	1/6
Robert McDowall	1/7
Stephanie Mattei	1/10
Pam Rogers	1/13
Rebecca Hanneman	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



## January Wedding Anniversaries



Joyce & Russ Colombo 1/28



## **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)