



# *Happenings* at NLC

March 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 Mattei

## **LENTEN SERVICES**

**Wednesday, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

**@ 5:45PM**

***(all Lenten services start with soup  
and sandwiches at 4:30PM)***

## **Upcoming Events**

March 11 - New Members Class

March 18 - Hamarama Dinner/Talent Show

April 2 - Palm Sunday

April 6 - Holy Thursday Service

April 7 - Good Friday Service

April 9 - Easter Sunday Service

April 21&22 - Trinkets and Treasures

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

## LENT 2023 OUR JOURNEY TO THE CROSS



Lenten Services will be held each Wednesday of Lent beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. A Soup and Sandwich Supper will precede the services.

The suppers will begin promptly at 4:30PM in Winemiller Hall.\* Volunteers are needed to provide soup or sandwiches for each week from March 1st through March 29<sup>th</sup>. Please see Karen Napoli in the narthex before or after Sunday services or call the church office at 352-597-1456.

This year, the Lenten Services are being led by Rev. Dr. Carlan Helgeson and Rev. Edward Lewis. They will be leading us through some Cross Examinations-- exploring the place of the cross in our lives. The themes for the five weeks are:

March 1 - "A Matter of Death and Life"

March 8 - "Is the Cross Necessary?"

March 15 - "Enemies of the Cross"

March 22 - "What Is Missing in Christ's Sufferings?"

March 29 - "The Marks of Christ"

Services will begin at 5:45PM. Please join us as we reflect on the cross and prepare ourselves over forty days to celebrate the day of resurrection!

\*The supper time is usually a wonderful time to catch up with friends and make new ones.

## UPCOMING SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK

Mark your calendars:

April 2 - Palm Sunday Service, 9:30AM

April 6 - Holy Thursday Service, 6:00PM

April 7 - Good Friday Service, 6:00PM

April 9 - Easter Sunday Service, 9:30AM

**“LIVING THE GOOD LIFE: A 10-WEEK BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW”** will be held in the Glen Lakes Club House on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. They began on February 28th. The study is taught by Rev. Dr. Carlan Helgeson. Come, explore how we can live in hope in a troubled world! No prior Bible study experience is necessary to participate. Since Glen Lakes is a gated community, you must contact Vicki Page to be allowed entrance. Vicki may be emailed at [victoriapage@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:victoriapage@tampabay.rr.com) or texted at 352-210-8407.

**ALTAR GUILD – March 27, 2023, 10:00AM.** Our group is excited about bringing beauty to our worship area and setting the altar for our services. 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.**

**EASTER LILIES.** Lily flowers are mentioned thirteen times in the Bible. The Lord Jesus uses the beauty and simplicity of the lilies to encourage us not to be anxious about life (Matthew 6:25-34). Our traditional way of decorating the sanctuary with lilies brings us beauty and inspiration at Easter time. We will be accepting orders for Easter lilies beginning Sunday, March 19th at a cost of \$9.00 each. We will also have 6 hydrangeas at a cost of \$20.00 each. Special envelopes will be available in the narthex. These lilies will adorn our sanctuary April 9th, Easter Sunday's Celebration of our risen Lord. Following the 9:30AM service, you may take your lily home to enjoy.

**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 \$30 and place your donation in a green envelope and mark it WZEU and place in the offering basket.

## **OUTREACH**

### **MARCH/APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH WORLD HUNGER**

Did you know that 1 in 4 people around the globe are moderately or severely food insecure? ELCA World Hunger is our church ministry to end world hunger and poverty.

ELCA walks alongside partners and companions in the United States and 60 other countries. So with your gift, ELCA can make a difference.

Please help! Your box of offering envelopes includes an envelope for ELCA World Hunger. You can also use the green offering envelopes in the pews and simply make a notation for ELCA WORLD HUNGER. Remember your donations are always welcome.

Thank you for your help. May God's light shine through us.

*Ellen Lapinski*

**NEW MEMBER CLASS.** If you are interested in becoming a member of Nativity Lutheran Church, a New Members' Class will be offered, **Saturday, March 11 from 9:30AM to 12:30PM.** The class will go over some basic Christian beliefs as lived in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), informational exposure to our ministry, including vision and values, and a practical exploration of our organization. Please, indicate your interest on the white pew card next time you come for worship, or simply call us at the office (352-597-1456).

Please, mark your calendar.

**THRIVENT CHOICE:** Benefit Members ready to give back? Make a personal donation or direct some of Thrivent's charitable funds to our Nativity Lutheran Church. Call 1-800-847-4836 to see if you are still eligible for 2022 distribution of choice dollars. The deadline is March 31.

**ACTION TEAM PROJECTS:** Associate Members are needed to apply for 5 projects: 1) Girl Scout Troop #24407-cookies for the military; 2) Crafty Ladies- material for quilts; 3) NLC Food Pantry-Easter hams; 4) Days for Girls-material for hygiene kits; 5) Trinkets & Treasures-supplies/food for volunteers.. See Ernie Horeis for applications or call 352-600-5906.

## Resurrection House Mission, Inc.

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Serving the mind, body & spirit of the community



December 29, 2022

Women of Nativity  
6363 Commercial Way  
Weeki Wachee, Fl 34613

Dear Sisters:

Thank you for helping make Christmas extra special for the children of our farmworker community.

This Christmas through you and other churches, organizations, and individuals, we were able to serve over 200 families serving almost 500 children, and we were able to give each family a generous food basket. We were very pleased that because of all of you the children and family received generous Christmas presents.

Even before covid-19 we never stopped serving the community, we never missed Christmas with the children, this year we felt a lot better, not so concerned as the last few years.

We will soon be preparing our 2022 report with pictures and more news, remembering that we now have more than 41 years of community organizing in TommyTown.

May God continue to bless you as you enter into this New Year.

In Jesus,

  
Margarita Romo  
President Council

# COMMUNITY LIFE

## WOMEN OF NATIVITY

**All** women of Nativity Lutheran Church are automatically members of W.O.N. (Women of Nativity), and are welcome to participate in all sponsored activities of W.O.N.

**WOMEN OF NATIVITY NEWS** - Women of Nativity (W.O.N.) elected officers at its annual meeting on January 22nd. They are Mae Haines, President; Ellen Lapinski, Vice President; Susan Lee, Secretary; and Jean Drach, Treasurer. Thankoffering contributions totaled \$1,200. Thank you to all who donated.

**CARDS R US - MARCH 1 & 8.** Nativity's Cards R Us Circle will be crafting greeting cards out of your used, donated greeting cards on the first and second Wednesdays in March, the 1st and the 8th. We'll meet in Winemiller Hall, beginning at 12:30pm and ending about 3:00pm. Please join us as we get creative and get to know each other. Shop our kiosks for your green St. Patrick's Day cards in the narthex and the administration bldg. hallway. We have cards for most every occasion. Your donations for our cards are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help those experiencing financial crises. When you donate your cards, please give us the entire card--not just the front. Contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918 for more information.

**MARY JOY CIRCLE - MARCH 1<sup>st</sup> 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 352-684-1632.

**DISTILLERY OUTING HOSTED BY FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, MARCH 4.** Everyone is welcome to join us for a visit at the NJoy Distillery, 7237 Wild Buck Rd., Spring Hill 34613 on Saturday, March 4. We will meet at the Distillery by 11:45, with our tour scheduled for noon. The \$8 tour charge is waived for the purchase of a bottle of their whiskey, rum or moonshine. The Meat Stix food truck will offer chicken, beef and pork kebabs, plus sides. Entertainment will be a couple who performs a medley of music for all ages. To carpool, be at Nativity by 11:10. **NOTE: DO NOT FOLLOW YOUR GPS** because it will give you inaccurate directions. The road is dusty limestone gravel, leading you to NJoy, a beautiful green oasis. From Nativity, go north on US19 past Centralia Road (CR476) on the right. You will see two cell towers, one on each side of 19. Turn left into the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area. The ranger station is on the right. You do not pay to enter Chassahowitzka because the distillery is on private property. **For further information and to RSVP, contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.**

**DAYS FOR GIRLS - OUR NEXT MEETINGS WILL BE THURSDAY, MARCH 9 & 23, 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, MARCH 16 @ 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!*** 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. 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 12 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** 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 Sheriff's office for their deputies to give to children traumatized in an accident or involved in other scary events. A shout-out to Judy Dietz, who initiated this heartwarming mission at Nativity. Stuffed animals are available at steep discounts after certain holidays throughout the year. They may be left with Linda in the office or can be coordinated with Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

**HOLD THE DATE - SATURDAY, MARCH 25.** The Women of the ELCA Gulf Coast Conference will be held at Nativity Lutheran Church. Watch for more information in the upcoming weekly email blasts or the Sunday announcement sheet.



**TRINKETS AND TREASURES PART 6** - Donations will only be accepted on Mondays and Tuesdays until April 4, 2023 (sale dates are Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22). Volunteers are needed for sorting, setting up the week of April 17, the actual sale days and breaking down on April 24. Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board outside the library in the admin building or on the kiosk in the narthex. For more information on the sale, you can pick up a flyer in the office during the week or Sundays in the narthex. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, you can contact Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119 or Janet Jones at 352-232-1074.

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS - PATTTER FROM PATTI

We have our big event of the season coming up.

### **HAMARAMA SATURDAY MARCH 18<sup>th</sup> 5:00PM.**

In looking at our old records we realized that this is our 8<sup>th</sup> Hamarama. We always love to offer it. It is a Ham Dinner which includes potato, green beans, salad/rolls, sundaes. After dinner is our Nativity Talent Show. We still have room for 2 more acts if anyone wants in, just let me know. We are selling tickets now, for \$10.00 per person the same price we always have. So buy your tickets and come for a good time.

We will still have an activity in April, not yet chosen and a cook out on Memorial Day weekend, so you will see info in future newsletters.

If you have any questions just contact me.

Patti Cotter 352-797-9686 or [pattiwithani@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:pattiwithani@tampabay.rr.com)

# Join us for ALOAfest!

*Christ our Companion...*

# HOPE

*for the Journey*

A day of inspiration,  
music, workshops and  
fellowship!

## Saturday, March 11, 2023

### Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church 304 Druid Hills Rd - Temple Terrace



The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Blyth, Pastor of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church in Sarasota and Secretary of the ELCA Florida-Bahamas Synod explores the Mark Twain quote "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts."

Lifelong Lutheran and professional comedian Al Ernst is credited with three Entertainer of the Year awards with Carnival Cruise Lines and appeared on Hulu, Comedy Central, and toured nationally. Al expands upon the Martin Luther quote "You have as much laughter as you have faith."



### Morning and afternoon workshops include:

Experience the Labyrinth (Walking Meditation) by Pastor Marilyn Crosby  
Hands on Creativity by Jean Archer

Advance Directives by Hospice Chaplain Jim Fischer

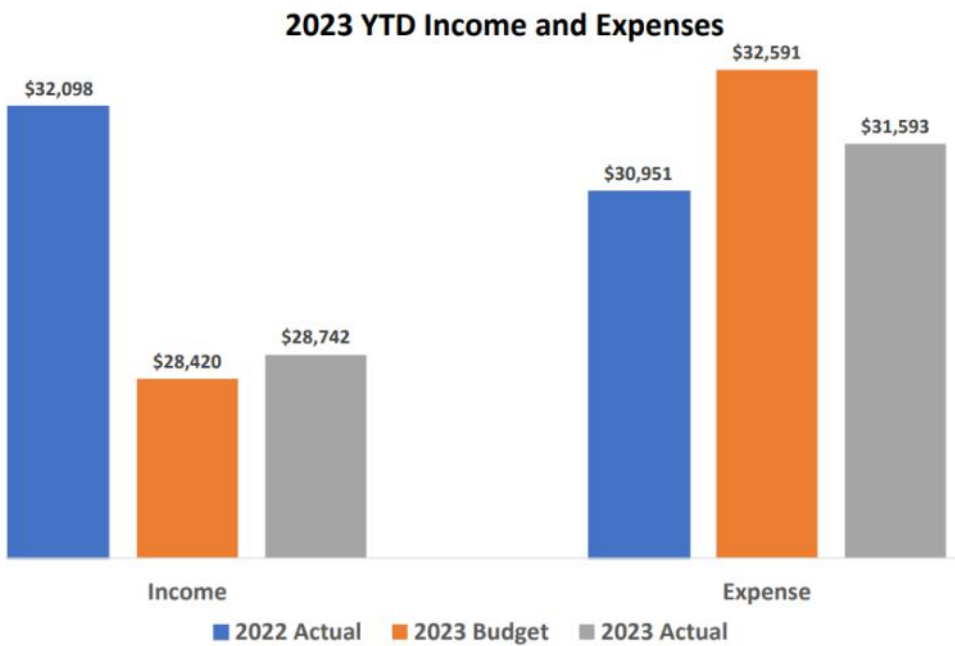
What a Music Arranger Does by Music Director Chris Robinson from COR  
My Life as a Deaconess by Sister Ann Hall—Deaconess Community of the ELCA  
Fall Prevention Exercises by the Physical Therapy Staff at Concordia Village

### REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 AM - Event 9AM to 4PM

Cost: \$20.00 per person plus a canned food donation for Metropolitan Ministries  
(Cost includes continental breakfast, lunch and snacks)

Download a registration form or register online at [aloaserves.org/events/alofest](http://aloaserves.org/events/alofest)

**FROM NATIVITY’S FINANCIAL SECRETARY**  
**REPORT FOR JANUARY 2023**



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** - 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 **April** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **March 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.nlcwww.org](http://www.nlcwww.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](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) or via the form on the website. This will help resolve any conflicts that may arise.

## March Birthdays

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Andreas Zybell    | 03/03 |
| Barbara Hofving   | 03/04 |
| Janet Holly       | 03/05 |
| Charlene Massey   | 03/05 |
| Ernie Horeis      | 03/08 |
| Donna Olsen       | 03/08 |
| Alexis Peterson   | 03/08 |
| Judith Dietz      | 03/10 |
| Gloria Wright     | 03/10 |
| Ella Wozniak      | 03/10 |
| Joanne Johnson    | 03/11 |
| Eileen Smith      | 03/11 |
| Cheryl Colombo    | 03/15 |
| Clarence Crawford | 03/15 |
| Doug Siegert      | 03/16 |
| Dorothy Outhouse  | 03/17 |
| Leonore Kopitzke  | 03/19 |
| Janet Wilkens     | 03/20 |
| Marilyn Henkel    | 03/22 |
| Dana LaFranca     | 03/22 |



|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Kris Hyypio        | 03/23 |
| David Ennes        | 03/24 |
| Sandy Peeters      | 03/24 |
| Diane Zabel        | 03/25 |
| Amber Marie Oliver | 03/26 |
| Frank Alessio      | 03/29 |
| Clyde Rosten       | 03/29 |
| Pat Runyan         | 03/31 |

## March Wedding Anniversaries

|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| William & Windy Binns   | 03/05 |
| Will & Glenna Schantl   | 03/09 |
| Johnny & Brenda Mullins | 03/18 |
| Mark & Linda Hengesh    | 03/22 |



## **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...

***Working as a supportive family of faith to extend God's gracious welcome through worship, community service, and spiritual growth opportunities.***

## **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)