



Happenings at NLC

June 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

JUNE 18

Happy
Father's
Day

Upcoming Events

- June 8-10: Synod Assembly,
Orlando, FL
- June 18: Observation of
Juneteenth

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

SYNOD ASSEMBLY: JUNE 8-10, ORLANDO, FL.

Attending the assembly from Nativity Lutheran Church will be Pastor Mattei, Evelyn Galli, and Ed Lewis.

OBSERVATION OF *JUNETEENTH*

Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. It recalls how the states of Louisiana and Texas heard the news that President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Slavery continued in those two states for more than two years after the proclamation was signed because the word had yet to travel there. Texas and Louisiana finally got the good news on June 19, 1865. Former slaves broke out in spontaneous celebration. These were dangerous times. Even in the face of resistance and threat, the formerly enslaved Africans found ways to give voice to the wide range of thoughts and emotions at the announcement of the end of legalized slavery in the United States of America. The enslavement of Africans was an economic choice supported by the pseudo-scientific belief that Africans were less than human. **Nativity Lutheran Church will commemorate Juneteenth on June 18.**

ALTAR GUILD members beautify the worship space and prepare the altar for our Sunday celebration. They also set up the 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. Our next meeting is June 26, 2023, 10:00AM.**

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.

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

MAY/JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH - REZ (Resurrection Lutheran) HOUSE

Each year Nativity raises money to purchase “Back to School” shoes for the children of the migrant workers who use the services of Rez House or who worship there on Sunday. Make your check payable to Nativity Lutheran Church and indicate Rez House on the memo line. THANK YOU.

Blessings to All, Linda Russo

US POSTAL FOOD DRIVE SATURDAY, MAY 13



We were blessed to have received 100 boxes of food from the USPS food drive this past Saturday. Todd and Janet Holly would like to give a big THANK YOU to Art Alt, Suzanne Chelf, Evelyn Galli, Luetta Hassis, Janet Jones & Linda Russo, for helping out on this day.



Grief Matters

Monthly Conversations About Grief

SPRING/SUMMER 2023



Join the Conversation

The *Grief Matters* team invites you to take part in free monthly conversations on special topics related to grief. These programs are an extension of the *Grief Matters* Community Forums. The conversations are held online through Microsoft Teams and take place from 12 to 1pm.

■ **Thursday, May 18**

Navigating Special Days: Birthdays, Anniversaries and More

Special days following a loved one's death can be challenging to navigate. Explore ways to honor and remember your loved one and care for yourself as special days approach.

■ **Thursday, June 15**

Myths About Grief: Things We Have Been Told

Our conversation will dispel some of the myths about grief. We'll look at the reality of what our experiences teach us.

■ **Thursday, July 13**

Pet Loss: Honoring the Experience

Pets are family to those who mourn their deaths. Find space to validate your experience of grief when your family pet dies.

To register, email
bereavement@baycare.org
or call (727) 462-7995.



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 OF NATIVITY SOCIAL LUNCHEON. The W.O.N. are planning their June Social Luncheon. It will be on Wednesday, June 21st at 12pm at Heritage Pines (11524 Scenic Hills Blvd., Hudson, FL 34667) in the Magnolia Room. A limited menu will be offered. Registration is required. There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the narthex. This is a social meet & greet event. All women of Nativity are welcome! Any questions, please contact Mae Haines at 727-863-4329.

ALL WOMEN OF NATIVITY SUMMER BIBLE STUDY. Keep an eye out for announcements on a summer bible study. Date and time still to be determined.

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.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - Our next meeting will be in September. Wishing everyone a safe and relaxing summer. Check the weekly announcements for upcoming dates and time. Please consider joining us. For more information, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

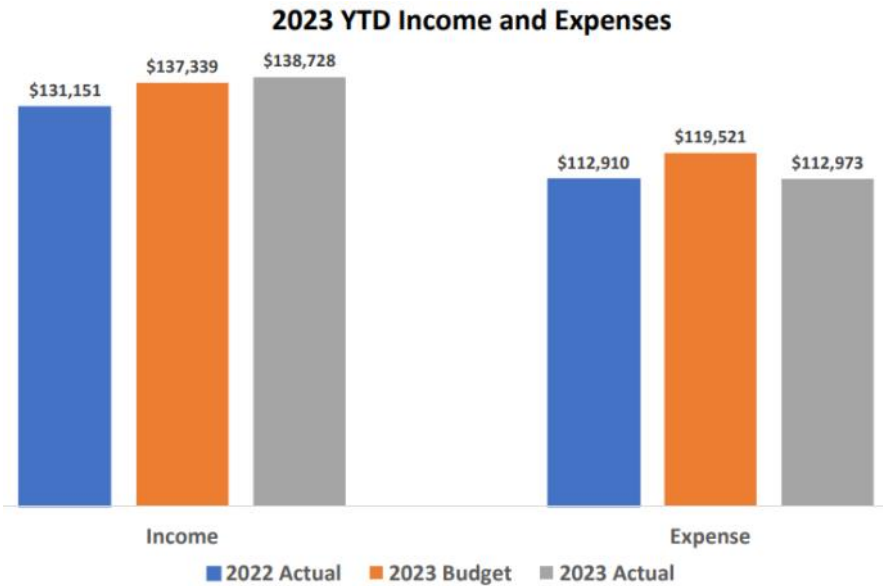
CARDS R US, JUNE 7 & 14 - Father's Day is June 18 and we have lots of cards to choose from on our kiosks. Please support this mission, which gives all your donations for these cards to Pastor's Discretionary Fund. If you can help, all you need to bring is your creativity. Join us on June 7 and 14, 12:30-3:00pm as we make new greeting cards from your used, donated cards. Also, see the stamped cards we now offer, thanks to Nancy Johnson! For information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, JUNE 3 - Friendship Circle will see a movie and share a meal with devotions and a short meeting on Saturday, June 3. If BOOK CLUB is still in theaters, we will likely see it. Movie times, which will be released on the previous Wednesday, will determine the theater and restaurant chosen. Details will then be e-mailed to all circle members and anyone else who wishes to attend and contacts Susan Nordstrom (352-428-1918).

SARAH CIRCLE, JUNE 15 @ 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. 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.

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY

APRIL 2023



The Lord has blessed us with a generous congregation. Because of all of us lives are being changed and many hear the good news of resurrection.

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Squires at patsquires63@gmail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

High School Graduates

1. **Chloe Benner** - Danville HS, Pennsylvania (Will and Glenna Schantl's granddaughter)
2. **Jasin Clancy** - Sudbury HS, Massachusetts (Charlotte Downing's grandson)
3. **Michael Facto** - Liberty HS, Elderburg, Maryland (Brian and Linda Wagner's grandson)
4. **Zoe Fernandez** - Tarpon HS, FL (Mary Sandvik's granddaughter)
5. **Abigail Gradowski** - Churchill HS, Livonia, Michigan (great niece of Susan Lee, and great granddaughter of Terry Halgren)
6. **Nicole Louise Jimenez** - Bishop McLaughlin Catholic HS, FL (friend of Robert Rios)
7. **Alea Kleinsorge** - Emmerborn HS, Germany (Will and Glenna Schantl's cousin)
8. **Desiree Mattei** - Land O Lakes, FL (Pr. Mattei and Stephanie's daughter). She also earned an Associate of Arts degree from Pasco Hernando State College (PHSC) as a dual enrollment student.
9. **Lauren Skye McDannold, Haley Grace McDannold, and Caitlin Rae McDannold** - Waconia HS, Minnesota (Susan Nordstrom's granddaughters)
10. **Andrew Rosten** - Libertyville HS, Illinois (Clyde & Rosie Rosten's grandson)
11. **Cameron Valenca** - Weeki Wachee HS, FL (Linda Russo's granddaughter)
12. **Kaitlin Warner** - Maine South HS, Illinois (Ellen Lapinski's niece)

College Graduates

1. **Erin Chelf** - University of Maryland (Suzanne Chelf's granddaughter)
2. **Julia Ann Dai** - University of Houston (Kathy Hackemer's granddaughter)
3. **Jared Gould** - Florida State University (Darlene and Patrick Gould's son)
4. **Justin Johnson** - University of Central Florida (Karen Napoli's grandson)
5. **Amber Oliver** - Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Georgia (Robert & Jamie Oliver's daughter)
6. **Jacob & Matthew Simpson** - West Virginia College (Ginger Wielk's grandsons)

Congratulations to Jared Dylan Gould who graduated, Cum Laude, on Friday, December 9, 2022, with his Bachelor's Degree from Florida State University's Dedman College of Hospitality and Tourism Management, in addition to earning his minor in Business. He is currently working on his Master's degree in Hospitality Entrepreneurship. Jared is currently a Director of Shore Excursions for American Cruise Lines (scenic river cruises). While at Florida State, Jared was a member and officer of Alpha Kappa Psi Fraternity, FSU Senior Class Treasurer, member of the Homecoming Committee and Dance Marathon, part of Children's Miracle Network, which raises funds and awareness for children in need of specialized pediatric medical care. He was involved in several other civic and social organizations, along with being employed at Tijuana Flats and the FSU Student Union. Please keep Jared in your thoughts and prayers as he continues into the next chapter of his life's journey. Yours In Christ, Darlene, Patrick, Madison and Jared Gould

FOOD PANTRY - UPDATES

While we appreciated these donations in the past, the following items are **no** longer being accepted.

- CLOTHES
- PLASTIC BAGS

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: Men's and women's deodorant, shampoo (15oz), toilet paper (1000 sheet rolls); toothpaste (6oz), bars of soap.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to help with this very important mission. There are many tasks that need people to assist with - no amount of time is too small. Contact Janet and Todd Holly at 352-503-6215.

MEMBER UPDATES FOR MAY

Remembering Our Dearly Departed:

Doug Siegert - May 11, 2023

Condolence cards can be sent to:

Nancy Siegert
11905 Spindrift Loop
Hudson, FL 34667

Address Changes:

Tim Noe

Unit 4202
5200 SW 25th Blvd
Gainesville, FL 32608-8925

Ashley Hoy Santiago

12045 Shadow Ridge Road
Hudson, FL 34669

Keep us informed of any changes to your home address, email, or phone number. Call the office at 352-597-1456.

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



June Birthdays

Kristin Hope	6/1	June Kristoferson	6/12
Judith Alessio	6/2	Bob Brayman	6/12
Michael Thelen	6/2	Frank Stephan	6/14
Kendall Wells	6/3	Sharon Johnson	6/15
Karen Crawford	6/6	Robert Rios	6/16
Robert Oliver Jr.	6/6	Pat Wilkins	6/17
Royale Pugh	6/6	Lynn Roa	6/18
Ruthie Ryan	6/6	Linda Borowski	6/19
Mary Sandvik	6/8	Madeline Johnson	6/22
Buddy Kristoferson	6/9	Brian Wagner	6/27
Joe Ryan	6/10	Joanne Schaub	6/28
Jill Helgeson	6/11		

June Wedding Anniversaries

Beverly & Glenn Houdek	6/1	Sharon & Philip Schroeder	6/11
Cheryl & Andreas Zybell	6/4	Karin & James Glessner	6/12
Lynda & Robert Bohn	6/8	Peggy & Robert Sanders	6/14
Pat & Jim Runyan	6/8	Patti & Timothy Cotter	6/14
Carole & Howard Schaefer	6/8	Phan & Pat Squires	6/15
Meredith & Joshua Wozniak	6/8	Connie & Roger Wondrzycki	6/19
Ruthie & Joe Ryan	6/9	Linda & Paul Rizzo	6/22
Alice & Kendall Wells	6/9		
Jill & Carlan Helgeson	6/11		

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)