



Happenings at NLC

December 2023

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 for
Budget & Elections**

12/10 @ 10:45AM

Christmas Cantata

12/17 @ 9:30AM

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
Service**

12/24 @ 9:30AM

Christmas Eve Service

12/24 @ 7:00PM

Christmas Day 12/25 - OFFICE CLOSED

Upcoming Events

December 9 - W.O.N. Christmas Lunch

December 16 - Angel Tree Party

January 21 - Annual Congregational
Meeting

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

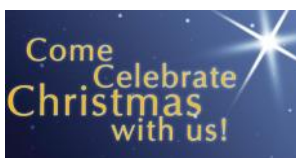


6363 Commercial Way, Weeki
Wachee, FL 34613 • 352-597-
1456 • www.nlcww.org

SPIRITUAL LIFE

While most of the world rushes to celebrate Christmas, the church observes the season of Advent, four weeks of preparation and anticipation beginning Sunday, December 3rd. 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.



CHRISTMAS CANTATA AND BRUNCH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH - Nativity Choir will be offering a beautiful Christmas Cantata at the 9:30am service. After the service the Fellowship Committee will be hosting our Christmas Brunch. It is complimentary so all you have to do is make sure you sign up in the narthex. Look for the big poster and the sign up sheet will be there. If you have any questions about anything, please give me a call at 352 -797-9682. ~PATTI COTTER



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT SERVICE - December 24, 2023, at 9:30AM.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - December 24, 2023, at 7:00PM. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the World.







ALTAR FLOWERS. NO ALTAR FLOWERS 12/24 AND 12/31. 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 per vase. For those people who have purchased bouquets, the Altar Guild will have them ready for you to pick up after the 9:30AM service.



Christmas Poinsettias

Order your Poinsettia to adorn our sancturay for the Christmas Eve service for \$10.00 each. The poinsettias are large 3 stem red plants FRESH from Knox Nursery of Winter Garden, FL. With proper care they will last weeks after Christmas.

Send your check to the office or use the order envelopes located in the Narthex and identify your memorial. You may pick up your poinsettia following the Christmas Eve service or beginning Tuesday Dec 26.



We will start taking orders on Sunday, December 3. Special envelopes will be available in the narthex by the poinsettia display.

We also have available **4** large white poinsettias with red foil. They will cost \$25.00 each, and are on a first-come first-serve basis. You may purchase these through Linda at the church office.

ALTAR GUILD - NO MEETING IN DECEMBER. NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY, JANUARY 22nd, at 10:00AM.

Members of this ministry 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.

CHRIST IN OUR HOME AND LIVING LUTHERAN - The October/November/December 2023 issue of *Christ in Our Home* devotional is available in the narthex and admin building, and you are welcome to pick one up. The January/February/March 2024 issue of *Christ in Our Home* will be available starting December 10th. A small donation would be appreciated to offset the costs of the devotionals. Small manila envelopes are available for your donation and can be put in the offering basket or brought to the office. If you have any questions, or want to make sure copies are still available, please call the office at 352-597-1456.

PRAYER LIST & PRAYER CHAIN POSSIBILITIES

"We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers constantly..." --1 Thessalonians 1:2

God desires that we enter into conversation with God through prayer. Prayer is a "two-way" communication with God. At times, we speak and God listens; while other times, God speaks and we listen.

Prayer List

If you wish to include someone on the **Prayer List** at worship, please contact the church office at 352-597-1456 or nativitylutheran63@gmail.com.

1. Please make sure that you have the permission of the person you wish to include in the prayers before placing them on the Prayer List.
2. When you contact the church office, please give:
 - a) The correct spelling of the person's name;
 - b) The nature of the prayers request (i.e., illness, hospitalization, surgery, recovery, etc.); and
 - c) Your contact information (name and phone number and/or e-mail address).
3. Normally, a person will be included on the Prayer List for four weeks. Please contact the church office to remove their name, or if you wish to have the person continue on the Prayer List for longer than four weeks. Thank you.

Prayer Chain

The **Prayer Chain** is for more immediate prayer concerns. You may contact the church office at 352-597-1456 or Pastor Giuseppe Mattei at 978-956-4304 or guiseppe4peach@gmail.com.

1. Please make sure that you have the permission of the person you wish to include on the Prayer Chain before placing them on the Prayer Chain.

2. Please include the following information:

- a) The name of the person for whom prayers are requested;
- b) The nature of the prayers request (i.e., illness, hospitalization, surgery, recovery, etc.); and
- c) Your name and contact information, so that updates on the person can be obtained.

While it is important to remember others in our prayers, we wish to honor and respect people's privacy, which is why we request their permission to be included on the Prayer List or Prayer Chain.

MONEY MATTERS. Advent is a season of hopeful waiting, of eager anticipation of the birth of a Savior. Let us set our focus on hope: hope for next year to be one that people hear the gospel message; hope for space for new relationships to flourish; hope for new ministries to launch. Our spiritual intention to respond to God's grace with generosity will fund much needed ministry. Our relationship with money matters because it is a spiritual matter. The way we relate to money reveals our trust in God and the life abundant God is ready to give us. Is God the treasure in whom our heart rests (Matthew 6:21)? We may use our financial resources to do a lot of good.

DONATE ONLINE. If you do not use a (white) church offering envelope, you may donate online. Go to our website (nlcww.org) and use the method that most suits your needs. You may choose your Venmo account, the QR code, or the "Donate Here" button. Nativity has a Venmo account, send to: @Nativity-LutheranChurch. You will know it is our account as you will see our logo. Just point your phone's camera at it and a website address will pop up, press the site name and it will take you to a screen where you can enter in your details.



NLC'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - The service is streamed live or you can watch a recording on our website (www.nlcww.org). 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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL - DECEMBER 3 & 17. Children will depart after the Special Music during worship service, and meet the teachers in the back of the church. The children will return in time for Communion.

CONFIRMATION CLASS - DECEMBER 3, 17 & 31. This class will take place after worship service on Sundays.

To register, or if you have any questions, please email Todd Holly at nativitypresidenttodd@gmail.com.

OUTREACH

ANGEL TREE OPPORTUNITY. This mission is to restore those affected by crime and incarceration. They believe that all are created in God's image and that no life is beyond God's reach.

We at Nativity will receive names of 35 children from our community whose parent(s) are incarcerated. On December 16th we will host a Christmas Party for the children and their caregivers. Each child will receive a gift from their mom or dad with a personal note. Please, join us for the fun. Any questions, contact Linda Russo at 352-596-0673 or 352-428-7764.

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Your love is needed now, more than ever. Lutheran World Relief has a long history of reaching our neighbors in Israel and Gaza. We join you in praying urgently, and we thank you for standing ready to care for innocent civilians caught in the crossfire. From sending emergency health care supplies to delivering LWR Mission Quilts, your love has long been reaching our neighbors caught in conflict. With your support, together, we will not abandon these neighbors now. The compassion of faithful people like you is needed in the hardest to reach places — places where innocent children, women and men are suffering. Your caring gift will deliver critically needed resources like medical care, food, water and essential supplies where they are needed most. Please, write a check to Nativity Lutheran Church with LWR in the memo line and the amount will be credited to you.

TROMPETER FUND GRANT FORMS AVAILABLE -

Applications for 2024 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, 2023. 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.

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 BIBLE STUDY - DECEMBER 6th. All Women of Nativity are invited to join our bible study on December 6th at 9:45AM. For more information, please call Jean Drach at 352-684-1632.

W.O.N. CHRISTMAS LUNCH - DECEMBER 9.

Entertainment will start at 11:30AM in the Sanctuary, lunch will follow in Winemiller Hall. Tickets are \$10.00. Last day to purchase tickets will be Sunday, December 3 (before or after service). If you are coming to the luncheon, please bring a dozen cookies to share.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - NO MEETING IN DECEMBER.

January dates are the 2nd and 16th. 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) has been able to participate in this life changing mission. Please consider joining us. For more information, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

CARDS R US - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 (12:30p - 3:00p) & 13 (9:30AM- 12:00PM). See our kiosks in the narthex and in the administration bldg. hallway for your Christmas, birthday, congratulations, get well, sympathy cards. Your donations (suggested donation of 75 cents) provide funds for Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help those in need. Please join us in the fun of creating greeting cards from your donated, used greeting cards. **Note the change from the usual hours on December 13.** For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

JANUARY CARDS R US. We will be making cards once in January on the 10th. We'll be meeting in Winemiller Hall from 9:30am-Noon. **Note the change from our usual hours.**

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, DECEMBER 3 - Friendship Circle will host a Christmas Coffee Hour Brunch following service on Sunday, December 3, with food provided by Thrivent. It will be a fundraiser for Global Outreach through the ELCA's Good Gifts mission. It builds on Friendship Circle's several years of giving goats for Christmas to people in Haiti and other parts of the world--their Goat Project. ELCA Good Gifts catalogs will be available to show in detail the difference your gifts will make. Any donations will be used to purchase animals, water filters, mosquito netting, seeds and gardening tools, healthcare for children, education for girls, Bibles, blankets, soup kitchen meals, etc.

CRAFTY LADIES - FRIDAYS, 9:00AM - 12:00PM. We are a group of approximately 12 women, who meet every Friday morning at Nativity from 9:00AM until 12:00PM. 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.

CLUB 75. Our next social group luncheon will be Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

The only criteria to be part of this fellowship group is that you must be 75 years old or older! We plan to gather for lunch at a local restaurant or club once a month for the purpose of fellowship and casual discussion. Transportation will be provided for everyone needing it.

Watch the bulletin and newsletter for details. You can also call Linda in the office (352-597-1456), or Vicki Page (352-210-8407).

PATTER FROM PATTI

We wish you all a blessed and Merry Christmas. Our Fellowship Committee is making huge plans for the future, here they come!

Tuesday, December 5th, 12:00PM - Tree Trimming in Winemiller Hall.

There are gentlemen putting up the 12 foot tree the Sunday before, we welcome all who would like to help us trim it. We have some ornaments that were made years ago, so nice to include them. See ya then I hope.

Sunday, December 17th, Cantata and Complimentary Brunch.

After the service we welcome you all for the brunch. We beg of you to sign up in advance to insure our committee has enough yummies. We will put the sign-up sheet in the narthex at the table on Sunday the 3rd. All of the food is homemade and you will enjoy it.

We have two events scheduled for the new year already. More details in future newsletters, but here they are: Tuesday, January 30th, Mystery Dinner, Saturday, February 24th a new event for us a Ham Dinner Bingo Night.

We are grateful to all of you for your participation, and I am so blessed to have the committee, we even just got 2 new members. We always welcome all who would like to join us. We even have a couple of parties a season just for us. God Bless you all.

~Patti Cotter

ATTENTION ALL THRIVENT MEMBERS:

There is still time to submit your Action Team Project or Choice Dollars before 12/31/2023. Call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836, and ask if you have anything available.

Here are some sample projects:

1. Crafty Ladies - material for quilts
2. Days for Girls - material for hygiene kits
3. Nativity Food Pantry - various food items
4. Cards R Us - material for making cards (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)
5. NLC Bell Choir and Music Choir - bells/music/folders
6. Homeless - gloves/socks/blankets

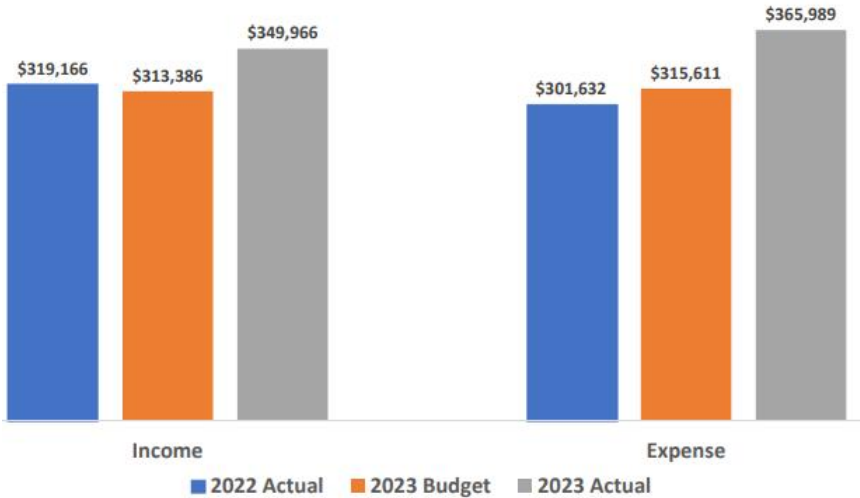
Tim Cotter or Ernie Horeis will help you submit a project and help you do your project. You will receive a \$250.00 credit card (seed money) that will help our community, and our Church's Mission Outreach.

P.S.: If you would like to become a Thrivent Associate Member, a donation of \$19.95 for the year is all that is needed when applying.

Contact Tim Cotter at 352-797-9682, or Ernie Horeis at 352-346-2333.

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY OCTOBER 2023

2023 YTD Income and Expenses



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

GROWING IN GENEROSITY - We are grateful for your pledge to help Nativity continue its missions in 2024. We are truly blessed that 72 pledges were received totaling \$196,590. THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts for supporting Nativity.

THE WEEKI WACHEE WINDS COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND will present their Holiday Concert on Sunday afternoon, **December 3 at 2:00PM in the NLC Sanctuary**. A variety of Christmas music will be played. The concert is free. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11. Our annual Congregational Meeting for Budget and Elections will be held after Sunday service. The purpose is to propose and adopt a budget and a program of ministry for the following fiscal year, to hold annual elections, and transact any other business that may be necessary. Copies of the budget will be available in the narthex. You may also stop by the office (or call 352-597-1456) to request a copy.

CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS DUE DECEMBER 15th: All ministry teams and committees are asked to turn in an annual report to the church office by December 15. Any questions, please call the church office at 352-597-1456.

SAVE THE DATE

Special Events Coming in January

Congregational Meeting

January 21 @ 10:45AM

Remembering Our Dearly Departed:

Doug Johnson - November 25, 2023

Condolence cards can be sent to:

Sharon Johnson
6433 Tapestry Circle
Spring Hill, FL 34606

New Address:

Terry Halgren has moved into an assisted living facility in Michigan. Her new address is:

33503 23 Mile Road
Room 206
New Baltimore, MI 48047
Phone: 586-716-9853

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



We are always looking for volunteers for various church duties. Volunteers are what help keep our church going and growing. If anything interests you please call the church office at 352-597-2456. THANK YOU!

GARDEN HELP WANTED. We need your help to maintain the gardens at the entrance of the administration building. A sign up sheet is on the kiosk in the narthex. Any questions, call the office at 352-597-1456.

AV OPERATORS NEEDED. The audio operator makes sure the congregation can hear the spoken word and music. Please consider helping to take on this very important (yet simple) task. Only one service, one Sunday a month is all that is required. Stop by the audio console at the rear of the sanctuary or call Art Alt at 352-596-1585 for more info.

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 **January** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **December 15th**.

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 who hasn't been able to attend church for some time, you may be the only link between them and Nativity. We would appreciate it if you kept 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. Should you or anyone you know 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.

December Birthdays

Terri Breida	12/2
Will Schantl	12/3
Lyn Derenski	12/4
Natalie Goff	12/4
Johnny Mullins	12/5
Dan Derenski	12/8
Scott Henkel	12/8
Crystal Burchhardt	12/9
Gayle Howland	12/9
Ann Kopp	12/9
Nancy Siegert	12/9
James Nelson	12/10
Joree Jensen	12/10
Suzanne Chelf	12/12



Brenda Mullins	12/15
Desiree Mattei	12/16
Janet DeVico	12/21
Karen Napoli	12/23
Gene Kortier	12/24
Scott LaFranca	12/24

December Wedding Anniversaries

Sylvia & Angelo Scebba	12/03
Royale & Tom Pugh	12/06
Candice & William Kochounian	12/08
Joan & Gil Herr	12/21
JoAnne & Zell Boggus	12/22
Janet & Michael Jones	12/26
Libby & John Capell	12/27
Nelly & Ernest Velez	12/31



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)