



Happenings at NLC

February 2024

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

FEBRUARY 14 ASH WEDN. SERVICES

Ashes-On-The-Go: 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Ash Wednesday Service: 6:00PM

LENTEN SERVICES - 5:45PM

Wednesday, February 21 & 28

March 6, 13, 20

***(all Lent services start with soup
and sandwich at 5:00PM)***

Upcoming Events

February 10 - New Member Class

February 24 - Ham Bingo Night

February 25 - Weeki Wachee Winds
Concert

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



THE HISTORY OF MUSIC IN THE BLACK CHURCH

To honor Black History Month in the ELCA Florida-Bahamas Synod, the Just Love Team presents *Harmonies of Heritage: Music's Journey Through Black Church History*. We present four genres of music that impacted the heart and soul of America:

- African Drumming/Call Response
- Negro Spirituals
- Gospel/Civil Rights
- Contemporary

Each week you are invited, through our e-blast, to explore one of the genres of music.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024, 6:00PM

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. This is a 40-day journey in preparation for “Holy Week,” the liturgical remembrance of Jesus’ last week marked by the entrance to the Temple, his arrest, trial, and, finally, his crucifixion. Ashes in the shape of a cross will be traced over our forehead, reminding us of our mortality but also of the promise of resurrection announced to us at our Baptism.

LENTEN DISCIPLINE.

During this time, we consider what leads us away from love of God and neighbor by exercising the Disciplines of Lent: repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love. They are opportunities for spiritual renewal during this season.

We begin our Christian life with Baptism, called “to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth” (ELW 236).

Our Wednesday's Lenten services will invite us to focus on Luther's Small Catechism. Please join us for Soup & Sandwich at 5:00 PM and then for the service at 5:45 PM. The choir will practice at 6:30 PM. If you are not part of the choir, please exit the sanctuary immediately after the service to give respectful time for the choir practice.

ALTAR GUILD – FEBRUARY 26, 2024, 10:00AM. 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.**

ALTAR FLOWERS— please note that there are no flowers during Lent. This will start Sunday, February 18 through March 24. Easter lilies will be available to order starting in March. Watch the newsletters and weekly announcement sheets for further details.

NLC'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - Access our website, 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.

NEW MEMBER CLASS. If you are interested in becoming a member of Nativity Lutheran Church, a New Members' Class will be offered, **Saturday, February 10th from 10:00AM to 12:00PM.** 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 in the white pew card next time you come for worship, or simply call us at the office (352-597-1456). Please, mark your calendar.

OUTREACH

FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH - LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is the ELCA's ministry to provide short- and long-term recovery when disasters strike in the United States and around the world.

LDR shares God's hope, healing, and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

LDR strives to help the church continue to be church during disasters — following Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbor in need. Some key areas of work include:

Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster.

Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates.

Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters.

Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes.

When a gift is designated to a specific disaster, 100% of it goes toward helping survivors and communities. Like Lutheran Disaster Response on Facebook, follow @ELCALDR on Twitter and follow @ELCA_LDR on Instagram.

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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3.

Friendship Circle will travel south to experience the fire of flamenco dancing at the original Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City on Saturday, February 3. It's an iconic Tampa establishment, serving Spanish and Cuban cuisine. Please contact Circle Leader Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918 to reserve your spot ASAP. There is no guarantee we can increase the number in our party. This will be on a "first come - first served" basis.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 & 20, 2024, at 9:00AM (AL LIEN). 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 - FEBRUARY 7 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 CIRCLE - FEBRUARY 7 & 14. We will be making greeting cards from your donated, used greeting cards on Wednesdays, February 7 and 14, 12:30-3:00pm. We meet in Winemiller Hall. Be sure to check out our selection of Valentine's cards on the kiosks in the Narthex and Administration Bldg. hallway. You'll also find cards for birthdays, anniversaries, sympathy, thinking of you, etc. Your suggested donation of 75 cents per card goes directly to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help those in financial distress. All are welcome to join us in the fun of creating these cards. For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

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.

TRINKETS & TREASURES - We have set the date for the next Trinkets & Treasures sale. It will be Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20. **We will have a meeting on Monday, February 5th 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 from 9am - 12pm, and Tuesdays 1p - 4p, beginning February 26th. If you have any questions, you may contact Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119 or Janet Jones at 352-232-1074.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL - FEBRUARY 4 & 18. 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 - FEBRUARY 11 & 25. 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.

YOU COULD TOUR IRELAND—AND THAT’S NO BLARNEY! Carlan and Jill Helgeson are hosting a tour of the Celtic Treasures of Ireland July 9-18, 2024, and you are invited to join them! More information can be found in the narthex. You can also call Jill and Carlan for more information at 352-686-3367.

Patter from Patti

Here we are going into February already, doesn't seem possible here is what we have going on so far:

HAM BINGO NIGHT SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH 5:00p.

This is a new event we are offering, we will all have dinner first and that will be what we have had at Hamaramas for years. Ham, potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls and ice cream sundaes. Sounds good doesn't it? Then we will clear up the room and start the bingo games. As good Lutherans we can not play for money, but we can play for actual items, we have been collecting them if you have something you want to donate for a prize let us know. The cost is \$10.00 per person, we will start to sell tickets on February 4th

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We are still trying to plan forthcoming events, our meeting is a couple of weeks so we will decide. We are always open to suggestions, so if you have them bring them on.

Patti Cotter

352-797-9682

SANCTUARY PROJECT

Sanctuary Repairs - The time has come to make some necessary repairs to our Church. The upholstery and carpeting in the sanctuary and nursery are in great need of repair as is shown below:



The Property Committee has therefore identified contractors to do the following repairs:

- Re-upholster the choir chairs and other chairs and benches in the sanctuary and narthex.
- Re-upholster the pews in the sanctuary.
- Replace the carpeting in the sanctuary and nursery.

The congregation approved this plan in the meeting on January 21. They also decided that they wanted to change the color of the pews and chairs from red to blue and to change the color of the carpeting to a darker shade of brown as shown below:



These repairs are planned for after Easter and will likely start in late April / early May if we can raise the money for this project in sufficient time. The repairs will take about 4 weeks to complete.

The estimated cost of this project is \$49,589. Thanks to the generosity of many members, we have raised \$45,443 in support of this project as of January 24, 2024. That leaves us with \$4,146 that will need to be raised before we can make these repairs.

Any support you can give for this project would be greatly appreciated. A link to make a pledge to support this project is given below:

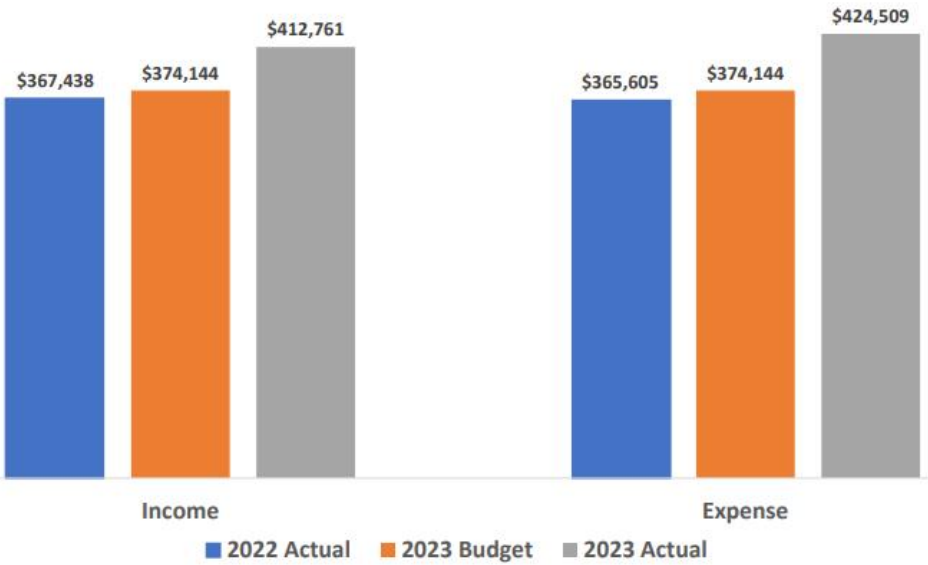
<https://www.nlcww.org/growing-in-generosity-2024/>

In addition, pledge cards are available in the church office as well as in the narthex. You can mail in your pledge card/donation or drop it in the offering basket on Sunday and please mark it "Sanctuary project."

Please contact Scott Henkel at 612-868-9512 or at Scott.Henkel@Capgemini.com if you have any questions concerning this project.

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY DECEMBER 2023

2023 YTD Income and Expenses



If you have any questions, please contact Scott Henkel at scott.henkel@capgemini.com.

WAYS TO DONATE TO NATIVITY. Nativity has a Venmo account. You can send a donation to: @Nativity-LutheranChurch. Also, if you prefer, Nativity has a Zelle account. Send to: nativitylutheran63@gmail.com. Also available is the QR code (see code on left) that is specifically for Nativity donations. Just point your phone's camera at it and a website address will pop up.



THE WEEKI WACHEE WINDS - COMMUNITY CONCERT - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 AT 2PM. Under the direction of NLC member Mark Hengesh, Weeki Wachee Winds will be presenting their Winter Concert at Nativity in the sanctuary. The concert is free. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE	MARCH 24 (9:30AM)
HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE	MARCH 28 (TBA)
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	MARCH 29 (TBA)
EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE	MARCH 31 (9:30AM)

Orders for Easter Lilies will begin in March. Watch announcements for details.

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 **March** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to nativitylutheran63@gmail.com by **February 15**. Anything submitted later may not be included. Publishing date will be February 26.

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.

February Birthdays

Iris Brunner	2/02
Eugene Burkart	2/05
Charles Wingrove	2/06
Roger Wendrzycki	2/07
Simone Mattei	2/09
Beverly Houdek	2/15
Valerie Mahon	2/16
Zell Boggus	2/17
Galina Maras-Kesteloot	2/19
Kristin Hope	2/21
Patrick Gould	2/22
Carol Anderson	2/23
Debra LaFranca	2/23
Lynne Merritt	2/24
Jim Runyan	2/24
Robert Sanders	2/24
Dieter Steffens	2/24
Darlene Gould	2/26
Carol White	2/26
Lorraine Meyer	2/27
Frank Margagliotti	2/28



February Anniversaries

Lorrie & Frank DeFrancesco	2/11
Carol & Richard Fleschner	2/17
Linda & Brian Wagner	2/26



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)