



# Happenings at NLC

## April 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



**Friday, April 19 & Saturday, April 20**

**9am—2pm**

#### Upcoming Events

April 1 - Church Office is closed  
April 19 & 20 - Trinkets & Treasures

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

# SPIRITUAL LIFE

## **DWELLING IN THE WORD (LECTIO DIVINA)**

Dwelling in the Word, also known by its Latin name, Lectio Divina, literally meaning "divine reading," is an ancient practice of praying the Scriptures. During Lectio Divina, the practitioner listens to the text of the Bible with the "ear of the heart," as if he or she is in conversation with God, and God is suggesting the topics for discussion. The method of Lectio Divina includes moments of reading, reflecting on, responding to, and resting in the Word of God with the aim of nourishing and deepening one's relationship with the Divine.

Come, let us practice Dwelling in the Word together every Wednesday morning from **11:00 a.m.** through approximately 11:45 a.m. starting on **April 3 through May 15** at Nativity Lutheran Church (Sanctuary), 6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee.

For more information, please contact Pastor Mattei at 978-956-4304.

**ALTAR GUILD - APRIL 22, 2024, 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.

**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 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.

**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**

**APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH - GLOBAL REFUGE, FORMERLY KNOWN AS LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES (LIRS).**

We are a church that does God's work in the world and in local communities pursuing justice, peace and human dignity for and with all people.

In partnership with Lutheran congregations and Lutheran social ministry organizations, Global Refuge has welcomed more than 379,000 refugees to the United States since 1939. This ongoing partnership and work is driven by God's love for all people and a vision for congregations to be welcoming and generous centers for mission and ministry.

The work of the ELCA through Global Refuge includes responding to people caught in conflict and facing persecution, advocating for their needs and interests, helping people access resources for basic human needs, working with foster care programs for minors, legal assistance, developing new and innovative service programs and partnerships, and much more.

Join us in this courageous work of serving and loving our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ. Global Refuge is our mission of the month in April. To donate, please fill out a green envelope and mark it "Global Refuge".

**THRIVENT MEMBERS.** We all want to give back, but sometimes it's hard to know where to begin. Don't let money get in the way of living generously. Thrivent Action Teams can help you make a positive impact in your community. Thrivent will provide the resources you need to get started. You'll submit your application a minimum of 14 days prior to your project start date to allow Thrivent enough time to review your application and send your Thrivent Action Kit to your doorstep. While you're waiting for your kit, use that time to plan and recruit volunteers for your project.

Here are some examples for you to do an Action Team application and receive \$250.00 seed money for these projects:

1. NLC Food Pantry - canned goods
2. NLC Fellowship - food for BBQ
3. NLC Cards R Us - material for making cards
4. N.A.M.I. - educational booklets
5. Lighthouse for the Blind - food for meal
6. REZ House Children - shoes

Contact Ernie Horeis @ 352-346-2333, or Tim Cotter @ 352-797-9682, for information or help.

**FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS.** The food pantry has fed over 1000 people through the first two months of 2024. This has been a steady average of about 500 people per month that this congregation has supported with food assistance. This past December, with an additional donation from the Mission Endowment Committee, we were able to purchase Winn-Dixie gift cards for clients for the holidays in addition to their normal food allotment. The Garden club at Glen Lakes also purchased some additional cards for us to give away.

In addition to the food and monetary support that you give us, our greatest need is people. We have 5/6 volunteers help the pantry every day that we are open. Many of our volunteers are there multiple days in a month but because of vacations, appointments, etc... they are not always available. Please prayerfully consider joining our group. Reach out to Todd and Janet Holly for more information.

# 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.**

**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.

**MARY JOY CIRCLE - APRIL 3 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.

**DAYS FOR GIRLS - TUESDAY, APRIL 2nd AND 16th - 9:00AM - 12:00PM (Al Lien Hall).** 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.

Mark your calendars for our dates in May. We are planning on meeting May 11th and 25th - 9:00AM -12:00PM. Any changes to these dates will be communicated in our weekly announcement sheet and next months newsletter.

Please consider joining us. For more information, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

**CARDS R US CIRCLE, APRIL 1 & 8, 10:00AM - 12:30PM.**

The Cards R Us Circle will be making cards from your used, donated greeting cards on first and second Mondays, April 1 and April 8. This will be in Winemiller Hall, from 10:00am-12:30pm. Please shop our kiosks in the narthex and in the administration bldg. hallway for your Mother's Day, birthday, anniversary, wedding, get well, sympathy, etc. cards. Your suggested 75 cent donation goes directly to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help those in a financial crisis. Consider this your invitation to join us in the fun of creating these cards. You are encouraged to make cards for your own needs. For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

**SARAH CIRCLE - APRIL 18 @ 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.

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - APRIL 28.** Friendship Circle will enjoy a 1-hour cruise tour from the Plantation Inn's Adventure Center, 9301 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River 34429, on Sunday, April 28, at 2:30pm. This is a narrated tour where we should see manatees and other wildlife, plus get information on the Crystal River area. Cost is \$25 and must be paid upfront in order to make your reservation. Following the tour, we will head south for an early dinner at Seagrass Waterfront Restaurant, 10386 W. Hall's River Rd., Homosassa 34448. We will meet at Nativity at 1:15pm to carpool. Because this tour routinely sells out, deadline is 10:00am on Thursday, April 18 to call Circle Leader Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918. Susan will charge the reservations to her credit card and you can reimburse her. Everyone is welcome to join us.

## **PATTER FROM PATTI - FELLOWSHIP**

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup> MYSTERY DINNER .**

Our last Mystery Dinner of the season. They are always so popular. This time we are headed down to Pasco County, but appetizers will be at church. Since we have a longer ride we will meet at 4:45pm for the yummys. It is not a restaurant we have taken you to before. Starting on Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> I will start taking the deposits of \$10.00 per person and you will have it returned when you come to the event.



**SUNDAY, MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL COOK-OUT AFTER THE SERVICE.**

The last event of our season until Fall is a cook-out to celebrate the Memorial Day week-end. The male chefs of our committee will be grilling the chow. Here is what we are serving: Bratwursts, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, sauerkraut, and cupcakes. Sounds good doesn't it ?

We will start taking the \$5.00 donation on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. At that time you will have to list what kind of sandwich you want so we know the correct amount to purchase. Do join us the price can't be beat.

Since we are heading towards the end of our Fellowship Committee season, do participate, we love to have you.

*Patti Cotter 352-797-9682*

## **2024 TROMPETER GRANTS AWARDED**

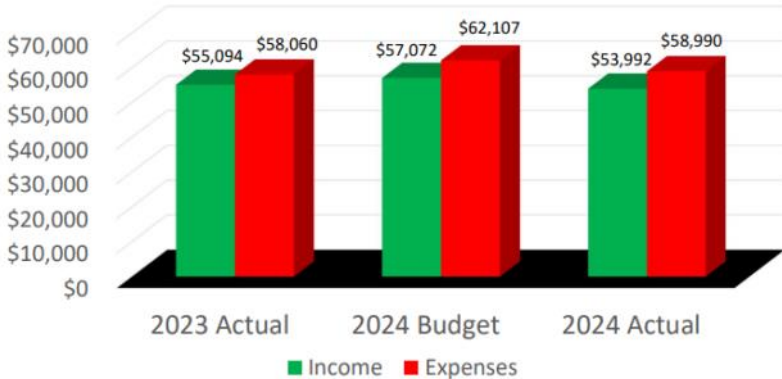
The Nativity Mission Endowment Committee has awarded Trompeter Fund grants to the following groups for 2024: Lighthouse for the Blind, NAMI, Crafty Ladies, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Days for Girls, Team 6363, Dawn Center, Nativity Lutheran Food Pantry, Golden Rainbow Ranch, Homosassa Elementary School, Hernando Hope, Resurrection House, Holy Cross Food Pantry, People Helping People (Senior Blessings and Neighborhood Blessings), Blankets for the Homeless, Nativity Radio Ministry, and Crescent of Hernando. A total of \$57,820.00 was given out this year; the details of the awards are posted in the narthex and Administration building. The David and Dorothy Marie Trompeter Endowment Fund was established through a bequest from the estate of Dorothy Trompeter in 2008. No church operating expenses, building or maintenance projects, or mortgage payments are eligible for grants.

### **CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE GRADUATES.**

If you have a family member graduating this year, please call the office (352-597-1456) with their name and school they are graduating from, even if they are out of state. We will have a special blessing for them on Sunday, June 16. Out-of-state graduates will be able to follow the service on line at [www.nlcww.org](http://www.nlcww.org).

# FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY FEBRUARY 2024

## 2024 Income and Expenses (Through February)



If you have any questions, please contact Scott Henkel at [scott.henkel@capgemini.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.



**TRINKETS & TREASURES - Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 from 9AM-2PM.** We are seeking many volunteers to make this great fundraising event for our church a huge success.

On April 8 at 9AM we will be having a meeting to discuss the various things that are needed to be done during the time leading up to the sale. In addition, a lot of tools were donated and if 1-2 men are available that day/time, we would appreciate them coming and pricing the tools prior to the sale.

Here are the volunteers we need:

1. To help sort and price items on the donation days
2. To set up shelving on Friday, Apr. 12 at 11am (need approximately 8 people)
3. To set up some tables on Sunday, Apr. 14 after coffee hour (need 4-6 people)
4. Empty containers with donations on Monday, Apr. 15 (8:30am)
5. To help set up and price items Monday, Apr. 15-Thursday, Apr. 18 (generally from 9am-1pm)
6. To work on the 2 sale dates (we need a few people to come at 7am on Friday, Apr. 19 to empty items from the container that we will be selling outside).
7. To help break down on Monday, Apr. 22 (9am).

We appreciate any help you can give us. Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex or call Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119 to let her know you can help and with what.

**BAKE SALE:** As we are having a bake sale both days, we would appreciate donations of cakes/cookies/brownies/cupcakes for Friday and Saturday. We will have a sheet with information on the bake sale available in the narthex and admin building as well as plastic containers for you to put your baked goods in. Please see or call Janet Jones at 352-232-0174.

**TABLES/POP-UP CANOPIES:** If you have a folding table and/or card table that we could borrow for the T&T sale, please call Evelyn at 516-909-3119 to arrange a drop off day/time. Make sure your name/phone number is clearly indicated on bottom of table so we can make sure it gets returned to you. Also, if you have a pop-up canopy we can borrow for the sale, it would be greatly appreciated. It can be dropped off between 9am-12pm Monday, Apr. 15 – Thursday, Apr. 18.

## MEMBER CHANGES

**New Address:**        **John & Libby Capell**  
12590 Retreat Place  
Spring Hill, FL 34610

**June Heinecke**  
3140 Forest Road #222  
Spring Hill, FL 34606

**Evelyn Lawlor**  
Apt. E208  
900 West Lake Road  
Palm Harbor, FL 34684  
Ph #: 727-240-1071

**Dearly Departed:**   **Bob McDowall**  
*Condolence cards:* Mary McDowall  
7030 Evergreen Woods Tr.  
#418, Spring Hill, FL 34608

**Ruth Goodwin**  
*Condolence cards:* Family of Ruth Goodwin  
7438 Sugarbush Drive  
Spring Hill, FL 34606

**Buddy Kristoferson**  
*Condolence cards:* June Kristoferson  
8112 Eastern Circle Dr.  
Brooksville, FL 34613

## 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 **May** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) by **April 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. 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.

## April Birthdays

Frank Defrancesco	04/02
Carlan Helgeson	04/03
Sue Margagliotti	04/03
Ashley Santiago	04/04
Howard Schaefer	04/05
JoAnne Stuck	04/06
Sylvia Scebba	04/07
Olivia Haaland	04/08
Philip Phoel	04/11
Allen Yttri	04/12
Catherine Hill	04/13
Linda Hengesh	04/16
Martin Salzbach	04/18
Karin German	04/18
Linda Rizzo	04/19
Giacomo Mattei	04/20
James Stuck	04/21
Charlotte Downing	04/24
Gary Hopkins	04/24
Ann Wright	04/24
Ken Larsen	04/25



Joshua Wozniak	04/26
Joanne Morrow	04/28
Jack Chase	04/29
Meredith Wozniak	04/30

## April Wedding Anniversaries

Lou and Noel Prettyman	04/01
Bob and Judith Brayman	04/05
David and Yvonne Ristau	04/09
George and Lonora Smith	04/18
Gregory and Charlene Massey	04/27
Michael and Linda Thelen	04/30





## **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)