



Happenings at NLC

June 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

JUNE 16

Happy
Father's
Day

Upcoming Events

May 31- June 2: Synod Assembly,
Orlando, FL

June 16: Graduate Blessing

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 •
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SPIRITUAL LIFE

SYNOD ASSEMBLY: MAY 31 - JUNE 2, ORLANDO, FL.

Delegates from Nativity Lutheran Church will be Pastor Mattei, Joree Jensen, and Robert Rios. Anyone is encouraged to attend as a visitor (which is free) for worship, fellowship, and service. The event will take place at the Embassy Suites, Kissimmee, FL.

DWELLING IN THE WORD (a weekly bible-based prayer) will resume on June 5th at 11:00AM in our Sanctuary.

FROM THE SYNOD OFFICE. **Margarita Romo** will be ordained, Saturday, June 15, 1 p.m. **Where:** Atonement Lutheran Church, 29617 State Rd 54, Wesley Chapel, FL 33543 (813-973-2211), Bishop Suarez Presiding. **ALL** are welcome to attend. Margarita has been called as Pastor of Resurrection (Rez) House Mission in Dade City.

GRADUATE BLESSING: JUNE 16. During the June 16 service we will have a special blessing for anyone who graduated school this year. Please notify the office by June 10th so they can be included in our service. Out-of-state graduates will be able to follow the service online at www.nlcww.org.

ALTAR GUILD. The Altar Guild committee will be off for the summer. **Our next meeting is September 23, 2024, 10:00AM.** 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.

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. **The Just Love Ministry of the Florida-Bahamas Synod presents a Juneteenth Freedom Day Observance, Saturday, June 15 at 3 p.m.** The observance will be held at Salem Lutheran Church in Orlando (7900 S. Apopka Road) and will be livestreamed on the synod Facebook page.

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 arrangement. 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 - If you are traveling or unable to attend in person but have internet access, you may follow the service by clicking on the link made available on our web site (nlcww.org) or via email on Saturday, or watch a recording of the service during the week. Conversely, you may 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

JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH - LUTHERAN 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*

FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS

In May, the Nativity Food Pantry participated in the annual Postal Food Drive. Members of Nativity helped to empty the mail trucks and pack banana boxes for distribution to 6 pantries as well as People Helping People and St. Vincent De Paul. Boxes assigned for Nativity were driven back to our church where another team of people helped to sort and organize the food. Altogether our food pantry benefited with about 3200 pounds of food received.

We would like to thank the following people for the assistance throughout the day:

Art Alt, Judie Brayman, Windy & Bill Binns, Suzanne Chelf, Clarence Crawford, Luetta & Nick Hassis, Carlan Helgeson, Kathy Hackemer, Waylon Jim & Denise Geargthy, Joanne Johnson, Joe & Joey Kleiber, Philip Phoel, Pat Squires, Nancy & Emma Trott, Diane Zabel.

SHOPPING CART DONATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE IS: TUNA & FRUIT COCKTAIL

While we will gladly accept any and all donations, we are going to highlight a couple of items each month that could help out.

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 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 352-410-0226.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH AND 18TH - 9:00AM - 12:00PM (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, W.O.N. (Women of Nativity) has been able to participate in this life changing mission. Please consider joining us. For more information, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-410-0226.

CARDS R US - Cards R Us will not be meeting this summer, June through August. Card kiosks will remain in the admin bldg. and in the narthex. Thank you, Nativity family, for your continued greeting card shopping at Nativity. All proceeds are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to help those in need.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE. Friendship Circle will not be meeting this summer, June through August. We'll be back in the Fall for more socializing and devotions with our friends. And, we're always happy to make new friends. See you in the Fall!

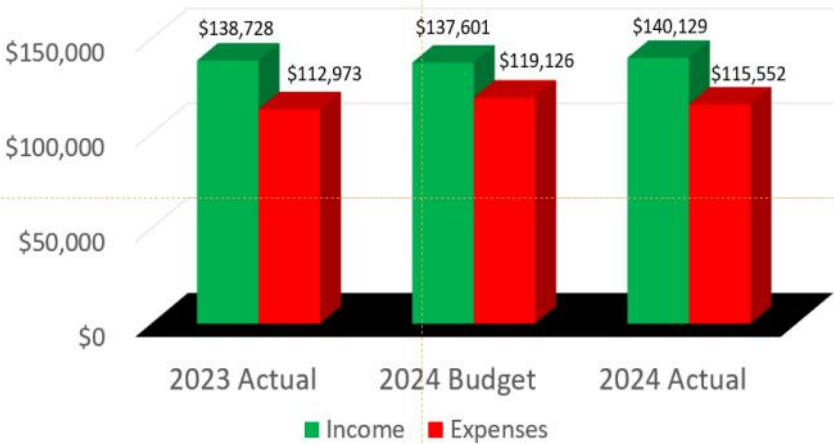
SARAH CIRCLE, JUNE 20 @ 10:00AM. Do you know someone who is undergoing a medical procedure, in need of comfort after a loss, desiring to increase their time of prayer or meditation, preparing for marriage, in the midst of an illness, recovering from surgery, or otherwise in need of prayer? ***Prayer 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, 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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL. Sunday school will start up again in September. Watch announcements for details.

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY APRIL 2024

2024 Income and Expenses (Through April)



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 right) that is specifically for Nativity donations. Just point your phone's camera at it and a website address will pop up.

A Crafty Christmas

How many of you have begun to plan for Christmas? (Good for You!) And So has Nativity Church!

Some of you may have heard that we are organizing an event called 'A *Crafty Christmas*'. This will be a community event sponsored by NLC and held here at our facilities - with vendors from all over the area selling handcrafted items. We will also have a variety of family activities, food and beverage sales and participation by Hernando County safety and service organizations, auction of baskets and other fun Christmas activities. All the money raised through vendor fees, food and beverage sales, auction and Christmas activities will be donated to charities within Hernando County. The designated areas are the handicapped, the aged and the homeless. Currently, we are in the process of selecting one organization in each category.

You know for an endeavor like this we need your help!

We have a variety of activities planned; including - Cookie Walk, Santa Room, Vendor Booths, Food & Beverage Sales, Sanctuary Tours, Auction of Baskets, Bloodmobile, Alzheimer's Trailer, Nativity Ambassadors, Music... and other Christmas activities.

You will see and hear this event advertised on social media, local and Christian radio, within local neighborhoods, and through printed magazines and flyers. We are currently advertising for vendors. We expect to have 45+ vendors selling handcrafted items. We have already accepted reservations for one-third of the spaces available. If you as an individual or you have a neighbor or friend or if you are part of a NLC group and you would like to sell your handcrafted items please email nativitycraftychristmas@gmail.com, or text 352-210-8407 or go to the Nativity website: WWW.NLCWWW.ORG to request an application.

Our goals for *A Crafty Christmas* are to provide a Christmas gift to the needy, emphasize the celebration of Christmas, provide an opportunity for crafters and artisans to earn money - and for us to build bonds with these people, enhance the recognition of NLC as an accepting and loving house of God, give the non-churched an opportunity to view and learn about our worship, provide the opportunity for us to meet and mingle with others and fellowship with each other.

I know Christmas seems a long way off – please start thinking of how you can be part of this exciting event. You can help by volunteering in the areas mentioned, you can help by posting flyers in your communities, stores, and restaurants, you can help by talking about *A Crafty Christmas* with your neighbors and friends, you can help by donating money, and everyone please help by praying that this event will bring honor to God and love to our community.

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

Maggie Kull	6/1	Bob Brayman	6/12
Kendall Wells	6/3	Frank Stephan	6/14
Steve Miller	6/5	Robert Rios	6/16
Karen Crawford	6/6	Pat Wilkins	6/17
Royale Pugh	6/6	Lynn Roa	6/18
Ruthie Ryan	6/6	Judy Kortier	6/21
Mary Sandvik	6/8	Madeline Johnson	6/22
Joe Ryan	6/10	Brian Wagner	6/27
Jill Helgeson	6/11		
June Kristoferson	6/12		
Joan Phoel	6/12		

June Wedding Anniversaries

Beverly & Glenn Houdek	6/1	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 Wendrzycki	6/19
Ruthie & Joe Ryan	6/9	Ruth Lee & Robert Haacke	6/20
Alice & Kendall Wells	6/9	Linda & Paul Rizzo	6/22
Jill & Carlan Helgeson	6/11	Judy & Gene Kortier	6/25
Sharon & Philip Schroeder	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)