



# Happenings at NLC

## March 2025

“With the birth of Jesus in our hearts,  
we carry light and love to the world.”

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30am

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

March 5 @ 5:00PM

### **Lent Suppers**

March 12, 19,26; April 9 @ 4:45PM

### **Lent Services**

March 12, 19, 26; April 2 & 9 @ 5:30PM

### Upcoming Events

Weeki Wachee Winds Concert -	3/2
Strategies for Lowering Dementia Risk -	3/7 & 8
WELCA Gulf Coast Conference -	3/15
Hamarama Dinner & Talent Show -	3/15
New Member Orientation -	3/22
Special Congregational Meeting -	4/6

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

# SPIRITUAL LIFE

## **Do We Honor the Saints in the Lutheran Church? If So, In Which Way?**

Martin Luther was a “fan” of the saints. During his early years, he had been taught not only the names of countless saints, but their life stories as well. Reading books on the lives of the saints became a significant part of his personal devotional life. In a revealing comment, Luther stated that “next to the Holy Scripture there certainly is no more useful book for Christendom than that of the lives of the saints.”

Luther made certain that each of the children born to him and his wife, Katherine, were named for one of the great saints of the past. His own name, *Martin*, had come to him directly from the saint’s day on which he had been baptized, Nov. 11, when St. Martin of Tours, a fourth-century French bishop, was remembered by the Church. His affection for the saints is reflected in a sermon he delivered in 1537, when he said: “Thus I praise and laud the true saints, people graced and gifted with an understanding of Holy Scripture and with many fine, splendid endowments of the Holy Spirit, gifts which they also use for the improvement and encouragement of Christendom.”

There are many Lutheran parishes that commemorate the names of saints (St. Laurence, St. Ambrose, and St. Athanasius). Yet, extensive celebrations of the lives and deeds of the saints in Lutheran congregations are not very common in 21st-century America. Are we in some way “shorting” ourselves by not remembering the saints as fully as we might?

Going back to the basics in learning about the saints may help us recover some of the faith-uplifting power that the stories of these devoted people supplied to previous generations.

A fundamental Lutheran document, The Apology of the Augsburg Confession (1530), clearly states the following: “We do not deny in our Confession that the saints should be honored. This may be done in three ways: first, by thanking God for showing us examples of his grace in the lives of the saints, and for supplying the church with teachers and other gifts. Now as these gifts are great, we should highly esteem them and praise the saints who made good use of them, as Christ in the Gospel praised the faithful servants, Matt. 25:21,23.

The second mode of honoring the saints is to strengthen our faith by their example. Thus, for instance, when we see that through the rich grace of God Peter's sin was forgiven, when he had denied Christ, our hearts receive strength to believe that grace abounds much more than sin, Rom. 5:20.

In the third place we honor the saints, by following, according to our several vocations, the example of their faith, love, and patience.” (Article XXI(4-9): Of the Invocation of Saints).

The Lutheran Church is certainly not “short on saints” for, in the wider sense, we are all saints together by God’s grace through the working of the Holy Spirit. In the *Apostles’ Creed* we confess to our belief in “the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints.”

Saints are certainly not mediators. Lutheranism teaches that believers, through Jesus Christ, can approach God directly in confession and through prayers. Saints can be examples of holy life.

The Calendar of Saints in the Lutheran Church suggests commemoration almost on a daily basis.

### **Spiritual remembrances in March:**

**John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church. Sunday, March 2, 2025.** These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

**Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202. Friday, March 7, 2025.** Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

**Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society. Monday, March 10, 2025.** Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

**Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604. Wednesday, March 12, 2025.** Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

**Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461. Monday, March 17, 2025.** A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

**Joseph, Guardian of Jesus. Wednesday, March 19, 2025.** Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

**Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556. Friday, March 21, 2025.** Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

**Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758. Saturday, March 22, 2025.** A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

**Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980. Monday, March 24, 2025.** Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

**Annunciation of Our Lord. Tuesday, March 25, 2025.** Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

**Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824. Saturday, March 29, 2025.** Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

**John Donne, poet, died 1631, Monday, March 31, 2025.** After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

## **LENT BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY ON MARCH 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**What is Lent?** Lent is the 40-day period leading up to Easter (excluding Sundays) that starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. You may use the 40 days of Lent as a time of personal reflection to prepare your heart and mind for Good Friday and Easter.

**What is Ash Wednesday?** Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday. Traditionally, it's a time for confession, repentance, and feasting before the fasting season. The name "Shrove" comes from the Old English word *shriven*, meaning to confess sins and receive absolution.

On Ash Wednesday, worshippers are marked with a cross of ashes on their foreheads. These ashes are a reminder of our need for repentance and the reality of our human frailty. The Biblical support for this observation comes from the following verses:

*Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes (Daniel 9:3).*

*There was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes (Esther 4:3).*

*Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the sons of Israel assembled with fasting, in sackcloth and with dirt upon them. (Nehemiah 9:1)*

**What are Other Key Dates of Lent?** Palm Sunday is the last Sunday of Lent and opens the Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter and the final days of Jesus' life. Palm Sunday marks Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, when people welcomed Him with palm branches, recognizing Him as their King.

Maundy or Holy Thursday remembers the Last Supper, when Jesus shared a final meal with His disciples and demonstrated humility by washing their feet.

Good Friday is a solemn day that commemorates Jesus' crucifixion and His ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Despite its sorrowful events, it's called "Good" because of the redemption Jesus secured for us.

Holy Saturday is a day of quiet reflection, as we remember Jesus' time in the tomb and anticipate the joy of what's to come. Finally, Easter Sunday bursts forth with celebration—Jesus is alive! His resurrection offers us hope, new life, and the promise of eternity with Him.

**Why is Lent 40 days?** The 40-day period of Lent is symbolic of significant biblical events, including:

- Jesus' 40 days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).
- Elijah's 40-day journey to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8).
- Moses' 40 days on Mt. Sinai where he received the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:28).
- The Israelites' 40 years of wandering in the desert (Numbers 14:33).
- The 40 days of rain during the Great Flood (Genesis 7:12).

Our Lenten series this year invites us to explore the theme of salvation through the five senses. Each week, we will focus on a different sense, reflecting on how touch, taste, smell, sight, and hearing can bring us closer to the divine.

**Join us for a transformative journey this Lent. The Ash Wednesday service is celebrated on March 5 at 5:00 PM.**

**Lent services will be March 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9 from 5:30 PM to 6:15 PM.**

**Preceding the Lent services will be soup & sandwich starting at 4:45 PM with the exception of April 2.**

**ALTAR GUILD – MARCH 24, 2025, 10:00AM.** Members 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.**



**NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION CLASS - MARCH 22, 8:45A - 12N.** If you are interested in membership, please contact the office to register. You will receive a packet to fill out for class. New members will be received on March 30.

## **ON PRAYING THE NEWS**

Often times, reading, watching or listening to the news may be challenging and overwhelming. Sometimes, it's wise to take a break from the news. But it's not a bad idea to pray about the news even before we get to hear them. Rabbi Irwin Keller composed the following prayer in 2016.

A Prayer Before Reading the News:

My God, the soul you have placed in me is pure and vulnerable.

I am afraid that looking at today's news will be painful.

Encircle me in a robe of light so that I can witness the wounds of the world without being wounded myself.

Let me learn what I need to know in order to be of my greatest use, without being overwhelmed by despair.

I feel your protective light now as I open myself to the world's suffering and the world's joys. Amen.

The news can bring pain and wounds and suffering with it and sometimes triggers overwhelming despair. So, we should admit how vulnerable we are and encircle ourselves in a robe of light as we "witness the wounds of the world."

We can remind ourselves that we are not alone, and we have the Spirit's power to endure, trust God and remain faithful. And look too for the news that announces the "world's joys" as well as the world's sorrows. We can pay attention to the goodness and joy in the news as well as the suffering. This includes generous people trying to do good things and the good creation blessing us in so many ways.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING HOLY WEEK SERVICES

<b>PALM SUNDAY SERVICE</b>	<b>APRIL 13 (9:30AM)</b>
<b>HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE</b>	<b>APRIL 17 (6:00PM)</b>
<b>GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE</b>	<b>APRIL 18 (6:00PM)</b>
<b>EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE</b>	<b>APRIL 20 (9:30AM)</b>

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

**ALTAR FLOWERS.** Please note that there are no flowers during Lent. This will start Sunday, March 9 through April 20. Easter lilies will be available to order starting March 30. Watch the weekly announcement sheets for further details.

**CHRIST IN OUR HOME** - We have received our copies of the April/May/June 2025 issue of *Christ in Our Home*. If you would like a copy they are available in the narthex, or stop by the office between 9:00AM and 12PM. A small donation would be appreciated to offset the costs of the devotionals. You can use a green pew card and mark it "devotionals". If you have any questions, or want to make sure copies are still available, please call the office at 352-597-1456.

**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](http://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

## MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH - HERNANDO HOPE.

### *H*elping *O*ther *P*eople with *E*mpathy

Hernando Hope is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that assists the homeless in Hernando County.

What is the need?

- In the United States, homelessness is up 18% in the last year
- Newly homeless are mainly mothers with children and the elderly
- Hernando County homeless head count is 218 from last year's count
- More than 100 people have been identified since last September
- Several homeless people live in the woods near us

What do we do?

- Obtain ID Cards, Birth Certificates, and Social Security Cards
- Apply for Food Stamps
- Obtain prescription glasses
- Supply food, clothing, bedding, and tents
- Supply shoes and socks
- Apothecary
- Assist with access to Medical & Psychological Treatment

Donations can be made by filling out a green envelope and marking it "Hernando Hope." Any questions about this mission, please call Ellen Paul @ 352-600-9555.

## **2025 THRIVENT ACTION TEAM PROJECTS**

1. NLC Food Pantry, food (2024) - Gene Kortier
2. Lighthouse for the Blind, meal (2024) - Judy Kortier
3. Trinket & Treasures, food - Joan Phoel
4. Hamarama, food - Phil Phoel
5. Trinket & Treasures, supplies - Judie Brayman
6. Remembering the 50's, food - Mary Krol
7. Autistic Children, clothing/snacks
8. NLC Choir, music
9. NLC Bell Choir, music
10. Fellowship, lenten soup
11. Altar Guild, wafers/wine
12. NLC Sunday School, material/bibles
13. W.O.N., meal
14. Cards R Us, card making material
15. Days for Girls, hygiene kit
16. Crafty Ladies, material of quilts
17. Friendship Circle, goats/chickens, etc - Ernst Horeis
18. Sarah Circle, prayer shawls
19. Homeless, food/clothing/misc.
20. Fellowship, memorial cookout

Looking for Thrivent Members to sign up for these projects. Contact Tim Cotter (352-797-9682) or Ernie Horeis (352-613-0589) for assistance.

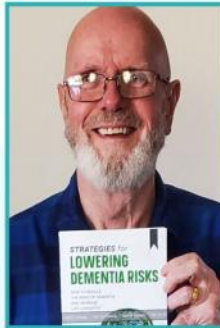
# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Every Sunday, children will start the worship service with their guardians, and will be dismissed at 9:45AM until communion time. New children can join Sunday School at any time. Register by calling the church office (352-597-1456). Any questions please call Noel Prettyman at 352-515-3345.

## Strategies For Lowering Dementia Risks

Nativity member Pat Squires recently published the book "Strategies for Lowering Dementia Risk". Pat wants to help others find potential ways to reduce their likelihood of acquiring dementia or to help minimize the progression if they or a loved one are in the early stages of dementia.

All Nativity Members and their friends are invited to join Pat for this seminar.



Main topics to be presented ...

- Understanding Dementia*
- The Brain: How it Ages*
- Diet and Nutrition*
- Physical Activity*
- Mental Stimulation: Keeping the Brain Active*
- Social Engagement*
- Managing Stress and Mental Well-Being*
- Preventative Healthcare and Regular Check-ups*
- Adapting Home and Lifestyle for Cognitive Health*
- Building a Support Network*

Friday, March 7 - 1:00pm OR

Saturday, March 8 - 10:00am

Nativity Lutheran Church -  
Winemiller Hall



Women <sup>of the</sup> **ELCA** 

**Attention All Women of Nativity!**  
You are invited to the  
**Spring Gathering of the  
Gulf Coast Conference of the WELCA**  
***“The Joy & Good  
of Sisterhood”***

*Lutheran Church of the Palms  
2250 Nebraska Ave., Palm Harbor, FL*

**Saturday, March 15, 2025**

**Registration opens at 9:30am**

**(includes continental breakfast)**

**Conference begins at 10:00am**

**Lunch following the conference**

**Cost: \$10.00 for includes continental  
breakfast and lunch**

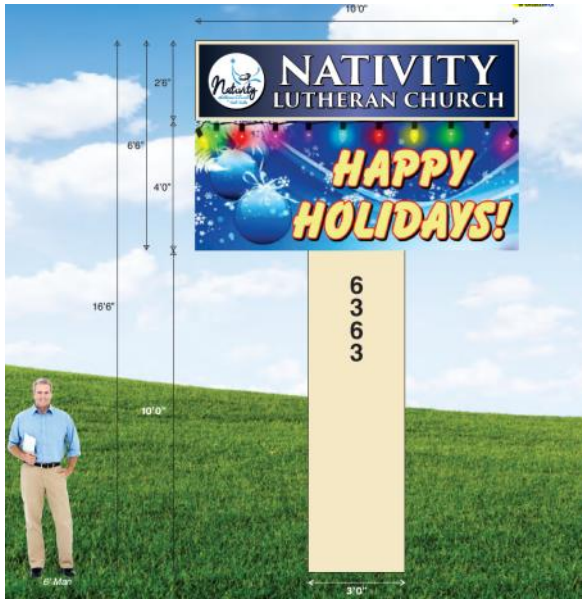
***We hope you can join us!***

***We will meet at church at 8:15am to carpool  
to Palm Harbor.***

***Please bring a non-perishable food item.***

**For more information, please call  
Ellen Lapinski at 773-556-4466.**

## NEW ELECTRONIC SIGN



We need your help to make this dream a reality. Thus far, we have raised about 51% of the funds needed for this project (our goal is \$65,000). Pledge forms for this initiative are available in the office or in the narthex. You may also use the green envelopes, and mark it “sign project”, to make a donation or can simply send an email to [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) with any amounts you can pledge to this initiative.

Please contact Ev Galli at 516-909-3119 or Scott Henkel at 612-868-9512 if you have any questions concerning this initiative.

# FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS

## SHOPPING CART DONATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH IS:

grape jelly and peanut butter

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

## THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS ARE GOING TO BE OUR GUESTS HEAR THEIR STORY AND SEE THEIR BEAUTIFUL OLIVEWOOD CRAFTS

**On March 30, 2025**, and during the service, we will be hearing about the Christians of the Holy Land, and after the service in the church Narthex we will be hosting a nice display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase. These carvings include olivewood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter and Christmas gifts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income.



For decades those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflict, the wars, the 12 yard wall built around Bethlehem, the COVID-19 pandemic, and nowadays the catastrophic ongoing war, due to this tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land. This made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland since they lost their source of income. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, today it is less than 1%. If it continues like this, in few years we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites.

Please help support our Christian brothers and sisters in the town of Bethlehem where Christ was born by purchasing their carvings.

A Christian family from Bethlehem will be telling us the story of the Christians of the Holy Land and they will be presenting these carvings after the services.

It is never too late to help. All proceeds go to support Christian families from Bethlehem .

**Let us carefully tend to our roots, Christian children of God in the Holy Land. And let us pray together for peace in the land where our Savior once walked to tell the world the good news of salvation .**

Thank you for your support

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. George Ghanem  
Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative  
703-745-2604

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS.** If you are a Thrivent Financial member, there is a good chance you get Thrivent Choice Dollars allocated every year for you to donate to a charity of your choice. This is chartable grant money the Thrivent Financial puts aside on your behalf based on the monies you have invested or paid into Thrivent Financial. Many people are unaware of these monies that exist for them. Are you one of them? If you are not sure, contact Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836, or check online at [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com). You have until March 31, 2025, to get these dollars allocated.

## **COMMUNITY LIFE**

### **COUNCIL UPDATE AT A GLANCE...**

People of Nativity, in an ongoing effort to keep you informed on Council business and other related subject matters, we'll be sharing each month at a glance what business has occurred within Nativity Lutheran Church and keeping our Council busy.

As a point of interest, NLC has both an Executive Council and Council at large. Both of these councils meet monthly. The Executive Council generally meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10am and the Council at large generally meets on the 4th Tuesday each month at 10am. Both meetings are conducted at NLC.

Given we have some new members on both Councils, we started the year running so this particular update covers both January and February.

1) The project for a new electronic sign with message board in front of NLC is moving forward as approved and needs contributions to cover the expense. Evelyn Galli (Treasurer) and Scott Henkel (Financial Secretary) are leading the project.

2) Our Crafty Christmas Project for 2025 is moving forward with a great deal of enthusiasm and excitement, the Project Leader is Vicki Page.

3) NARCAN stations are being installed within several areas of NLC. For those who are not familiar these stations, they contain medicine that reverses opioid overdoses by blocking the effects of opioids on the brain and can restore breathing within minutes and helps someone wake up.

4) Signs regarding “no pets” in our church buildings will be placed in several noticeable locations. Service animals are exempt.

Blessings,

Steve Miller  
NLC Council President

**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 - MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>.** All Women of Nativity are invited to join our bible study on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:45AM. For more information, please call Elva Posewitz at 352-584-9362.

**CARDS R US, MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> and 10<sup>TH</sup>.** Card making days in March will be on the first and second Mondays, March 3rd and 10th, from 9:30am-12:30pm. Everyone is invited to join us in this satisfying and fun endeavor. Come and get crafty with us! Congregation, remember your favorite leprechaun on St. Patrick's Day, and please shop our kiosks. Proceeds are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help those in financial crisis. For further information, contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

**DAYS FOR GIRLS - our next meeting dates are TUESDAY, MARCH 4th and 18th at 9:00AM in 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) has been able to participate in this life changing mission. For more information, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-410-0226.

**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.

**THE WEEKI WACHEE WINDS - COMMUNITY CONCERT - SUNDAY, MARCH 2 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.

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE** will have two very different, back-to-back activities in March. You can choose one or both. For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

The first one is on **Saturday, March 8, at 10:00am** in Winemiller Hall. Pat Squires has personal history in his family with dementia and is offering to share what he's learned in a presentation entitled "Strategies for Lowering Dementia Risk". Following the presentation, we will drive south on U.S.19 to Thousand Island Cafe, 3438 Commercial Way, for lunch with devotions and a short meeting.

**On Sunday, March 9**, we will take in the 40th Annual Art in the Park at Tom Varn Park, 306 Darby Ln, Brooksville 34601. This is a juried art festival sponsored by Hernando County Arts and Humanities Council and includes live entertainment and food trucks. To carpool, meet at 11:15am after Nativity coffee hour. The weather forecast that day is 73 degrees and sunny.

**SARAH CIRCLE, MARCH 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.

**CLUB 75 LUNCHEON - MARCH 18.** The only criteria to be part of this fellowship group is that you must be 75 years old or older! More details coming. You can also call Vicki Page with any questions (352-210-8407). A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.

**TRINKETS & TREASURES - Sale Dates Friday, April 4th and Saturday, April 5th.** We have started accepting items for donations only on Mondays from 9am - 12pm, and Tuesdays 1pm-4pm. **Last day for donations will be Tuesday, March 18th.** If you can help us sort and price items during any of those days/times, please join us. It's a great time for fellowship as we work and you might even find a bargain or two prior to the sale. If you have any questions, you may contact Evelyn Galli at 516-909-3119 or Janet Jones at 352-515-3931.

**SAVE THE DATE!** There will be a Special Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, April 6**, immediately following the service.

#### **MEMBER UPDATES:**

**Dearly departed:** Klaus Horstmann  
*Condolence cards:* Horstmann Family  
13604 Rudi Loop  
Spring Hill, FL 34609

## **PATTER FROM PATTI**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>, HAMARAMA/TALENT SHOW  
5:00PM.**

We are offering an event we have had for many years, the menu is the same ham, potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, sundaes. Yes yummy, yummy. Even more important then the dinner is the TALENT SHOW. We ask any of our people to participate in some form they want to. So if you will contact me, or Tim, or send to church because I have to give the info to Gary because he will be doing the intros again. Sooo I need to know by Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> the latest, but the sooner the better. I am selling tickets on Sundays, for adults \$10.00, children 9-15 \$5.00, under 9 no charge. Hope you will all join us again.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> MYSTERY DINNER.**

Tim wanted us to head north because he wanted to have you all at our house for the appetizers, of course you can have different #beverages# at our house. This is a restaurant that June took us to, casual but yummy. So more info next month

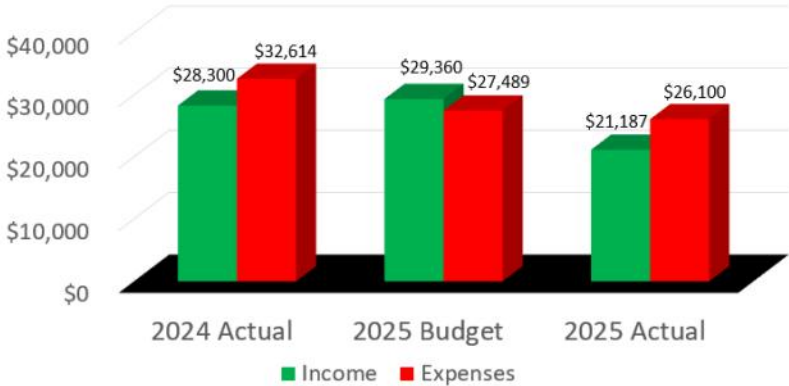
**SUNDAY, MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>, MEMORIAL COOK OUT AFTER  
CHURCH SERVICE.**

This will be the last event Tim and I will be running. Still hoping for some to take over the committee. Please celebrate with us the few events we are still offering. Thanks,

~Patti Cotter

**FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY  
JANUARY 2025**

**2025 Income and Expenses (Through January)**



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







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 352-597-1456. THANK YOU!

**USHERS NEEDED.** We need 2 ushers for our 9:30AM service. There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the narthex listing the Sunday service dates. Please sign up for whatever date(s) fits your schedule. Your time is greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact Joe Kleiber at 608-860-1260.

**ACOLYTE AND CRUCIFER NEEDED.** We are seeking individuals who would like to light the candles and/or carry the cross during our Sunday service. Please contact the office (352-597-1456) if you are interested. A short training is all that is needed. Your time is greatly appreciated.

**NURSERY HELP NEEDED FOR SUNDAYS.** If you have signed up and are registered for helping out in the nursery, we need 2 people to monitor the nursery. Sign-up sheet is available in the nursery or you may call the office at 352-597-1456 to schedule day(s) you are willing to help out.

## March Birthdays

Barbara Hofving	03/04
Janet Holly	03/05
Ernie Horeis	03/08
Donna Olsen	03/08
Judith Dietz	03/10
Gloria Wright	03/10
Ella Wozniak	03/10
Joanne Johnson	03/11
Eileen Smith	03/11
Cheryl Lorenzo	03/15
Clarence Crawford	03/15
Dorothy Outhouse	03/17
Leonore Kopitzke	03/19
Anita Pierce	03/20
Marilyn Henkel	03/22
Dana LaFranca	03/22



Kris Hyypio	03/23
David Ennes	03/24
Sandy Peeters	03/24
Amber Marie Oliver	03/26
Clyde Rosten	03/29
Pat Runyan	03/31

## March Wedding Anniversaries

William & Windy Binns	03/05
Will & Glenna Schantl	03/09
Johnny & Brenda Mullins	03/18
Mark & Linda Hengesh	03/22



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

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

With the birth of Jesus in our hearts  
we carry light and love to the world.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

***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)