



Happenings at NLC

April 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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY-	APRIL 13, 9:30AM
HOLY THURSDAY -	APRIL 17, 6:00PM
GOOD FRIDAY -	APRIL 18, 6:00PM
EASTER SUNDAY -	APRIL 20, 9:30AM

Upcoming Events

Trinkets & Treasures -	4/4 & 4/5
Special Congregational Meeting -	4/6
Church Office is closed -	4/21

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

Spiritual remembrances in April:

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589. Friday, April 4, 2025 - Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists. Sunday, April 6, 2025 - These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945. Wednesday, April 9, 2025 - Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557. Thursday, April 10, 2025 - Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573; renewers of the church. Saturday, April 19, 2025 - These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109. Monday, April 21, 2025 - This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

Day of the Creation (Día de la Creación) (LLC). Tuesday, April 22, 2025 - This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960. Wednesday, April 23, 2025 - Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

Mark, Evangelist. Friday, April 25, 2025 - He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380. Tuesday, April 29, 2025 - This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

Philip and James, Apostles. Thursday, May 1, 2025 - Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." He later responded to an Ethiopian official's request for teaching and baptism. Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373. Friday, May 2, 2025 - Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 13, 9:30AM. Come join us as we enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love. Todd Holly will blow the shofar.

HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 17, 6:00PM is the commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ when he broke bread and poured wine as his body and blood and commanded his disciples to do the same in memory of him. This way, he established the sacrament of Holy Communion (a.k.a. the Eucharist or Sacrament of the Altar) prior to his arrest and crucifixion. According to tradition, Jesus celebrated the dinner as a Passover feast. Christ would fulfill His role as the innocent Lamb of the Passover celebrating the "exodus" from slavery to sin to the Promised Land of eternal life in him. During that meal, Jesus washed his disciples' feet as a sign of servant leadership. During the service, there will be an opportunity for those who so desire to enjoy the ritual and receive the foot-washing.

GOOD FRIDAY - FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 6:00PM. A communal time of prayer, meditation, music, and Scripture reading. The dramatized reading of the Passion story will guide our reflection on Jesus' sacrificial love and final days of his physical life on earth.

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 20 - During Easter Sunday our regularly held worship service (9:30AM) we will rejoice and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The Author and Sustainer of life cannot be held hostage to cruelty and evil. His love response overcomes death and the grave and triumphs over fear. Those crafted in him and his words, Baptized in his death, rise with him to a new life of joy and hope.

ALTAR GUILD – APRIL 28, 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.**

EASTER LILIES. Lily flowers are mentioned thirteen times in the Bible. The Lord Jesus uses the beauty and simplicity of the lilies to encourage us not to be anxious about life (Matthew 6:25-34). Our traditional way of decorating the sanctuary with lilies brings us beauty and inspiration at Easter time. We are accepting orders for Easter lilies **now until April 13th** at a cost of \$10.00 each. We will also have 6 hydrangeas at a cost of \$20.00 each. Special envelopes will be available in the narthex. These lilies will adorn our sanctuary April 20th, Easter Sunday's Celebration of our risen Lord. Following the 9:30AM service, you may take your lily home to enjoy.

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* devotional, and *Living Lutheran*. 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) 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

APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH - GLOBAL REFUGE

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 (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) 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. Learn more about Global Refuge go to www.globalrefuge.org.

Donations can be made by filling out a green envelope and marking it "Global Refuge."

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.

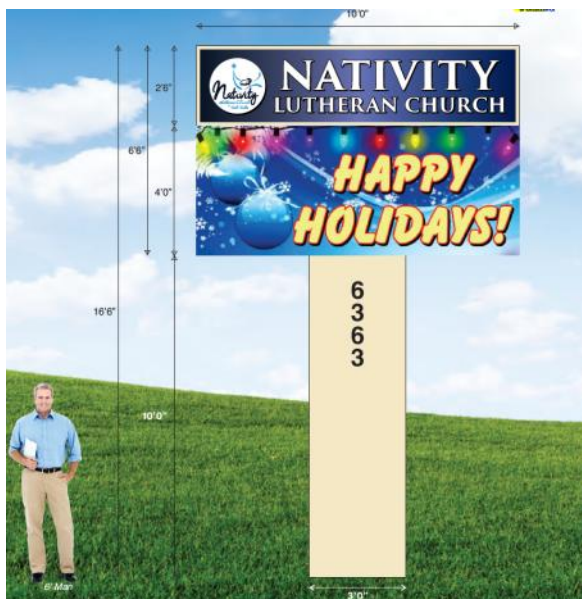
FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS

SHOPPING CART DONATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL IS:

15 oz. cans of peaches and pork and beans

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

NEW ELECTRONIC SIGN



We need your help to make this dream a reality. Thus far, we have raised about 54% 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 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.

COMMUNITY LIFE

COUNCIL UPDATE AT A GLANCE...

People of Nativity, here we are in the month of March and nearing the end of first quarter 2025. Time has a way of moving quickly and soon Easter will be here!

For those in our congregation who may not have attended the NLC “HAMARAMA” dinner and talent show on March 15th missed not only a wonderful meal but some great talent provided by some of our brothers and sisters here at Nativity. The evening was enjoyable and provided plenty of levity. Pastor Giuseppe even showed those in attendance some new dance moves! A BIG! Thank you to the Cotter’s and those who helped with the event.

For the newer members of NLC there are plenty of opportunities to become involved in the life of our congregation as you are able and there are many forms of evangelism. The Florida-Bahamas Synod which our congregation and others are a part of has a wonderful quote as it relates to our serving as Christians “God’s work our hands” and there is never a shortage of God’s work.

As routine the Executive Council continues to meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and the Council at large meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Committee reports are due prior to the 4th Tuesday of every month.

Did you know that NLC has a set of governing documents referred to as The Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, which NLC leadership is familiar with and refers to on numerous occasions when conducting church business, the document is lengthy and covers a host of topics.

Additionally, NLC has an in-depth Policy and Procedure Guidebook. Again this document covers many HR and Procedural issues including “Youth Protection Policies” which require background checks.

Blessings,

Steve Miller
NLC Council President

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING — APRIL 6.

The Congregation Council has called for a special congregational meeting to be held after the morning worship service on April 6, 2025. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on modifying our Values Statement and enabling the RIC (Reconciling in Christ) Core Team to apply for RIC Partnership status.

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 - APRIL 9TH. All Women of Nativity are invited to join our bible study on April 9th at 9:45AM in Winemiller Hall. For more information, please call Elva Posewitz at 352-584-9362.

CARDS R US, APRIL 7th and 14TH. Card-making days in April will be on first and second Mondays, April 7th and 14th, from 9:30am to 12:30pm in Winemiller Hall; you can arrive later and leave earlier to fit your schedule. Our group is shrinking and it's difficult to keep up with demand for some of the cards. Please consider joining this fun and worthy project, where all proceeds are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Congregation, please shop our kiosks for your Easter cards. Also, you can select one of our many used cards and let us make it into your customized card! For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - our next meeting dates are TUESDAY, APRIL 15th and 29th 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, in Al Lien Hall. 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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE will embark on a 2-hour 15-minute pontoon tour with Island Girl Cruises on Saturday, April 26. Their brand new, 19-passenger pontoon has a restroom. The narrated tour of the Homosassa River includes the springs and Monkey Island. Cost is \$25, payable to them on the 26th. The tour includes complimentary water and soda. Small coolers are allowed. The Island Girl is located behind the Seagrass Waterfront Restaurant, 10386 Halls River Road, Homosassa 34448. Reservations are for their 10:30a.m. tour, so we will meet at Nativity to carpool at 9:30a.m. for the half hour drive. We'll have our meeting, devotions and meal together at the Seagrass when we return to the dock. Tentative reservations are for 16 of us. Everyone is welcome, Friendship Circle member or not. The deadline to contact Susan Nordstrom (352-428-1918) for your reservation is Saturday, April 19.

SARAH CIRCLE, APRIL 17 @ 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.

TRINKETS & TREASURES – The sale dates are Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5 from 9am-2pm.

We will need many volunteers to make it a success as follows:

1. Empty containers with donations on Monday, March 31 (8:30am).
2. To help set up and price items Monday, March 31-Thursday, April 3 (generally from 9am-1pm).
3. To work on the 2 sale dates (we need a few people to come at 7am on Friday, April 4 to empty items from the container that we will be selling outside).
4. To help break down on Monday, April 7 (9am).

BAKE SALE: As we are having a bake sale both days, we would appreciate donations of cakes/cookies/brownies/cupcakes for Friday and Saturday. Please see Maryann Stewart or call Janet Jones at 352-515-3931 for more details.

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, March 31 - Thursday, April 3.

We hope you can help us make this event a great success. If you have any questions, please 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.

CLUB 75 LUNCHEON - APRIL 22. 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.

MEMBER UPDATES:

Dearly departed: Barbara Strohl

Condolence cards: Karen Reiman
14508 Crestavista Ave
Clermont, FL 34714

Or

Jan Strohl
8768 SW 61st Loop
Ocala, FL 34481

PATTER FROM PATTI

Well we just have two more occasions coming up before our retirement. I want to thank all of you who came to our Hamarama/Talent Show. Our committee did a great job, and all of those who did act in the talent show were lots of fun. Even Pastor danced for us. It was a wonderful possibility to remember all of the ones we had over 20 years. Here is the two we have left:

Tuesday, April 29th, MYSTERY DINNER, Cotter's house @ 4:00PM.

Tim wanted to have all of you to our house first, you then can have different "BEVERAGES". Since it is our house you will head north, not too far. It is very casual even shorts are fine. It is very reasonable in cost also, with a huge variety of what you may order. It can handle up to 60 people. Vicky said if you had more they just could stay at your house and drink. You could meet up with people if you care and then head up 19 to us. We will give you maps, easy to find. I will start taking sign-ups on Sunday, April 6th. \$10.00 which will be repaid. It may be the last time you get your favorite meatballs.

Sunday, May 25th, after Church Service a MEMORIAL DAY COOKOUT.

After the service you are offered brats, hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, & sauerkraut. We will offer it inside, but you will be able to smell it during the service. The cost will be \$5.00 and I will start selling Tickets on May4th.

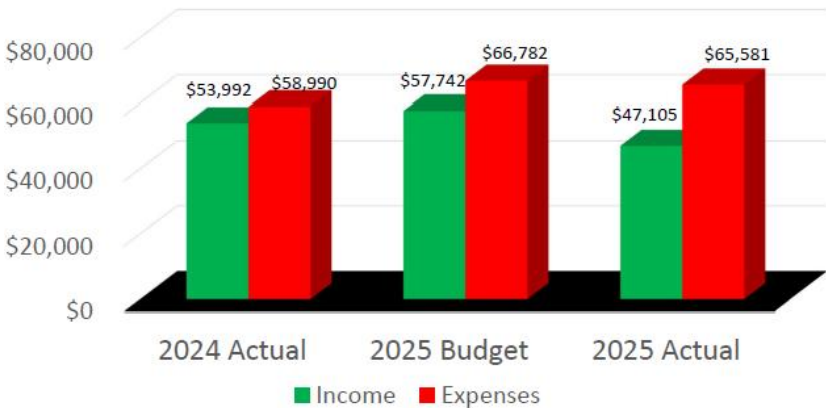
I thank all of you for participating over the years. I am sure there will be new events after our retirement. It has been amazing. Patti

THE WEEKI WACHEE WINDS - COMMUNITY CONCERT - SUNDAY, APRIL 27 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.

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, May 25.** Out-of-state graduates will be able to follow the service on line at www.nlcww.org.

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY
FEBRUARY 2025

2025 Income and Expenses (Thru February)



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.





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.

April Birthdays

Carlan Helgeson	04/03
Sue Vincent	04/03
Ashley Hoy	04/04
Howard Schaefer	04/05
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
Betty Lou Bernhardt	04/21
Charlotte Downing	04/24
Gary Hopkins	04/24
Ann Wright	04/24
Ken Larsen	04/25
Joshua Wozniak	04/26
Nancy Hoffmann	04/27
Joanne Morrow	04/28
Jack Chase	04/29



April Wedding Anniversaries

Lou and Noel Prettyman	04/01
George and Lonora Smith	04/18



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 **May** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to 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. 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.

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)