



# Happenings at NLC

## July 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



### Upcoming Events

July 4 - Office Closed

August 23 - W.O.N. Bible Study



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



RECONCILING IN CHRIST



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

## Spiritual remembrances in July:

**Catherine Winkworth, died 1878; John Mason Neale, died 1866; hymn translators. Tuesday, July 1, 2025** - Neale was an English priest who specialized in the translation of Latin and Greek hymns into English. Winkworth lived in Manchester, England, and devoted herself to translating German hymns. Almost all English-speaking hymnals include many of their translations.

**Thomas, Apostle. Thursday, July 3, 2025** - Though frequently remembered as "doubting Thomas," this apostle also demonstrated a willingness to suffer and die with Jesus (John 11:16), and finally claimed the risen Christ as "my Lord and my God!" By tradition, he later worked as a missionary in India. Long commemorated on December 21, Thomas's celebration is moved to July 3 in agreement with ecumenical calendars.

**Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415. Sunday, July 6, 2025** - Hus was a Bohemian (present-day Czech Republic) priest who spoke against abuses in the church, and was seen by Martin Luther as his predecessor in the reforming movement. He was found guilty of heresy by a council of the church, and burned at the stake.

**Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540. Friday, July 11, 2025** - Benedict is known as the father of the Western monastic movement. Educated in Rome, he went to live as a hermit, and eventually gathered a community of monks around him. He wrote a rule for living in monasteries that is used by Benedictines and adapted by others.

**Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931. Saturday, July 12, 2025** - A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles, and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.

**Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566. Thursday, July 17, 2025** - A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military. Upon arriving in the West, Las Casas was granted a large estate with Indigenous enslaved people whom he freed after he was ordained a priest. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.

**Mary Magdalene, Apostle. Tuesday, July 22, 2025** - Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial.

**Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373. Wednesday, July 23, 2025** - Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.

**James, Apostle. Friday, July 25, 2025** - James and his brother John were the sons of Zebedee, fishermen by trade before their call from Jesus. He was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred, and his death is the only one recorded in scripture (Acts 12:1-2).

**Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672; George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians. Monday, July 28, 2025** - These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel's great work, Messiah, is a setting of scriptural texts.

**Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany. Tuesday, July 29, 2025** - Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.

**Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, died 1030. Tuesday, July 29, 2025** - Considered the patron saint of Norway, Olaf went from a life of piracy to becoming Christian and declaring himself king of Norway. He revised the laws and tried to administer them fairly. Driven from Norway in a rebellion, he was killed in battle trying to regain his kingdom.

## **ALTAR GUILD – NO MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST.**

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, starting in September, 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 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.

**CHRIST IN OUR HOME** - We have received our copies of the July/August/September 2025 issue of *Christ in Our Home*, and summer issue of *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.

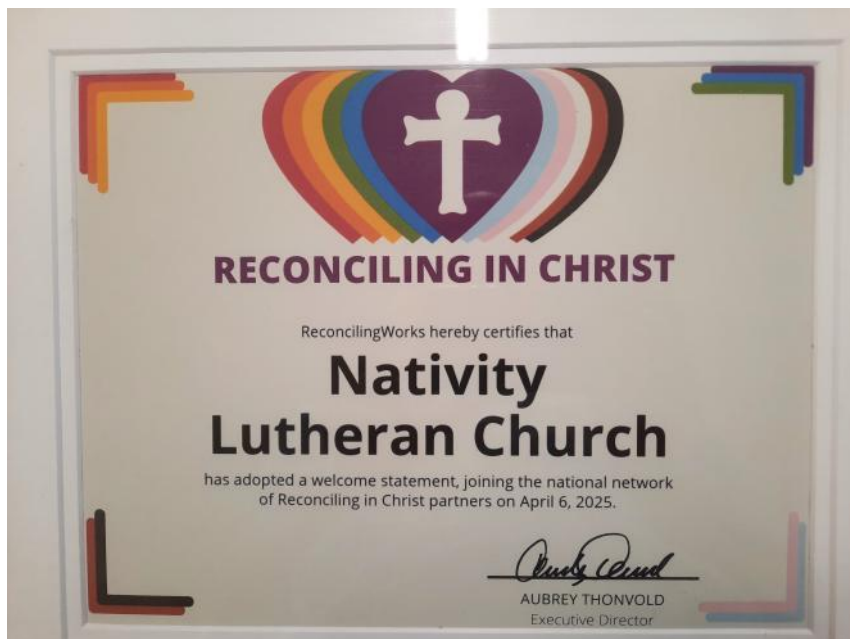
**NLC'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE** - If you are traveling or unable to attend in person but have internet access, you may follow the service by clicking on the link made available on our web site (nlcww.org) or via email on Saturday, or watch a recording of the service during the week. Conversely, you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

**JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH - LUTHERAN SERVICES OF FLORIDA.** Our July Mission of the Month is Lutheran Services Florida (LSF). On their website you will read: Through our work, we empower our local community to build healthier, happier, and more hopeful futures. LSF (Lutheran Services Florida) is deeply committed to supporting our neighbors in need, ensuring that families right here in our Florida communities have access to the resources they need to thrive. We work to prevent suicide and substance abuse, provide vital support for families facing crisis, and help children from low-income households receive the education they deserve to succeed. Our three core programs—Head Start, Family Focus, and Health Systems—are dedicated to strengthening families, fostering resilience, and creating lasting change right where we live.

LSF touches the lives of 1 out of 50 Floridians a year. Let us offer our support for this worthy cause. To donate, please use a green envelope and mark it "July Mission of the Month LSF".

# Certificates of Recognition



**"Reconciling in Christ" (RIC)** refers to a program within the Lutheran Church, specifically ReconcilingWorks, that welcomes and affirms individuals of all sexual orientations and gender identities. It signifies a public commitment by a church or organization to be inclusive of LGBTQIA+ people and to work towards racial equity.



# Global Refugee Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service

Recognizes

Nativity Lutheran Church

as a

**TOP GENEROUS CONGREGATION**

On behalf of all of us, thank you for your generosity in 2024!

A stylized line drawing of a signature, likely belonging to Rev. Dan Beirne.

Rev. Dan Beirne

Director of Mobilization & Faith Relations



**Global Refugee, formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS),** is a nonprofit serving newcomers seeking safety, support, and a share in the American dream. For 85 years, Global Refugee has welcomed those seeking refuge, upholding a legacy of compassion and grace for people in crisis.



**ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEE LEADERS, CIRCLES, CHOIR, WOMAN OF NATIVITY AND COUNCIL MEMBERS.** If you are planning an event to help our congregation or community, both local or worldwide, think about submitting an Action Team Project and receive back seed money from Thrivent to help fund your outreach. Example: Rachel's Day we missed submitting an Action Team Project which could have brought in seed money, a donation from Thrivent of \$250.00. Contact Ernie Horeis @ 352-600-5906 or Tim Cotter @ 352-797-9682.

## **FOOD PANTRY TIDBITS**

### **SHOPPING CART DONATION FOR THE MONTH OF JULY IS:**

Men's Deodorant

*(best price and selection is at Dollar Tree)*

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

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Class will start up again after Labor Day. If you wish to register your child for the upcoming school year, please call the church office at 352-597-1456, or call Noel Prettyman at 352-515-3345.

# COMMUNITY LIFE

## COUNCIL UPDATE AT A GLANCE...

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Nativity, I hope each of you are enjoying the summer and planning some travel during the months ahead. That being said, the Council wishes everyone a blessed summer and traveling mercies. As a reminder to the congregation all general Council Meetings are open meetings to our congregational members. The meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10am. Please know you are always welcome.

Some of our members have inquired about the status of our new electronic sign. Commencement of work documents have been signed and permitting with the required local governmental entities will begin. The completion of the project and installation is not expected much before the end of 4th quarter.

Living into our resented RIC (Reconciling in Christ) commitment our church has established a "Family Restroom" located in the north west corner of the narthex for guests and members who prefer or need the accommodation. June is PRIDE month and NLC having been asked, will join three other Bay Area Lutheran ELCA Congregations as well as several other denominations in the largest Pride Parade in Florida. The event will take place in St. Petersburg on the last Saturday in June.

Given NLC has many wonderful ministries to which we are proud and committed to each one, helping hands are always needed and welcomed. Our food pantry continues to serve the poor and hungry in our area, can also use help both during the operational hours and behind the scenes. "God's Work Our Hands" Please consider stepping forward to help in our ministries.

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.

**HOLD THE DATE! W.O.N. SUMMER BIBLE STUDY– AUGUST 23, 9:00AM.** More details to follow.

**NATIVITY'S CARDS R US CIRCLE - JULY 7TH & 14TH.**

We will be making greeting cards from your used, donated cards on the first two Mondays of July, on the 7th and the 14th, from 9:30am to 12:30pm. We've had a couple of new faces show up (yay!), but we are looking for more of you to join us in this mission. We'll show how and provide all the supplies. Donations for the cards we make are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help those in financial crisis. For further information, call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

### **DAYS FOR GIRLS - We are off for July and August!**

Watch announcements for when we start up again in September. 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.

**SARAH CIRCLE.** We will not be meeting in person during July and August. However, if 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, consider joining Sarah Circle. For information, call Peggy Sanders at 352-382-1781.

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, SATURDAY, JULY 26TH.**

Friendship Circle will visit the Hernando Historic Museum Association's Countryman Family One Room Schoolhouse Museum in Brooksville. This will be a fun, factual and interactive 1-hour talk, beginning at noon, plus a display of artifacts and photos from the 19th century. The emphasis of the talk--as it was in these schools--will be God, country, family, morals and manners. Charge is \$15. Unlike in the 19th century, this schoolhouse has A/C and lights! Address: 66 Russell St., Brooksville 34601. From there, we will enjoy lunch at the Lazy Maid Creperie, 419 Howell Ave., Brooksville 34601. To carpool, meet at Nativity at 11:15a. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Susan Nordstrom (352-428-1918) if you plan to attend.

**CLUB 75 LUNCHEON - JULY (date and location TBD).**

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.

**THANK YOU** from Jordan and Ericka Drinkhouse for the ceremony and warm welcome given during the baptism of their son Darwin on June 8. They appreciated the blanket and all the preparations done for the ceremony.

# Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly

Along with Susan Nordstrom (who shared her personal reflection on Sunday, June 21) and Jay Jensen (whose personal reflection will be heard on July 6 during announcement time), I participated in the FB Synod Assembly in Kissimmee, FL from June 12-14. Over 400 Voting Members (and not Delegates) from all the 211 churches of the Florida-Bahamas Synod attended the Synod Assembly.

The theme was “There is a Time for Everything” based on Ecclesiastes 3. Rev. Emily Harkins was the keynote speaker. She is a nationally recognized speaker, pastor, and leader with a passion for Jesus, justice, and radical love. As the founding developer and pastor of The Dwelling, a vibrant and growing community of faith in downtown Winston-Salem, N.C., she works daily to reclaim the identity of brokenness and recast it as beautiful, beloved, and holy. The Dwelling is part of the emerging forms of being Church. You may find her compelling presentation [here](#).

There were several well lead workshops on Friday afternoon. I attended the “Empowering Communities to Thrive” workshop lead by Kevin Stamper, VP of Development, Lutheran Services Florida, and the “What’s Next?” workshop lead by the Rev.s Derek Hoven and Carlos Ham, Assistants to the Bishop and Mission Directors for the Northern and Southern Territory of the Synod respectively.

The opening and closing Eucharistic Celebrations and the Healing & Reconciliation service were well planned. The special choir was made up of participating voting members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pr. Giuseppe Mattei

## **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE FROM CAROL ANDERSON**

The Fellowship Committee will be off during July and August. We are wishing everyone a safe and healthy summer. The Fellowship Committee will start up again in September. Anyone wishing information or would like to join this ministry, please call Carol Anderson @ 630-564-7135.

### **MEMBER UPDATES:**

#### **New Address:**

Mark & Linda Hengesh  
11315 Nelson Drive  
Huntley, IL 60142

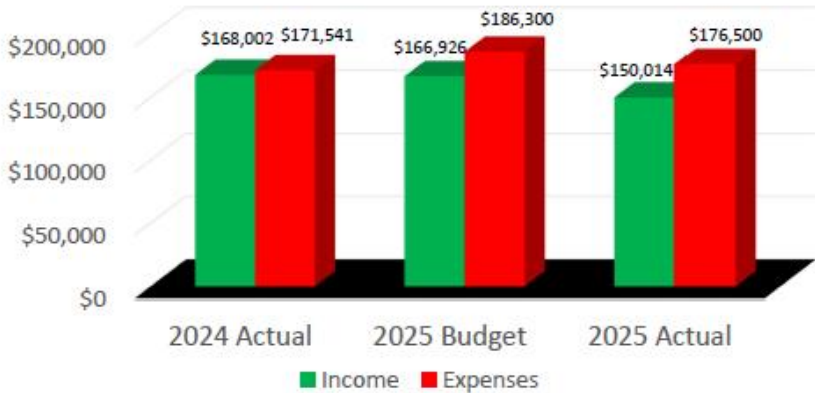
Judy Nelson  
The Grand Senior Living  
9300 Civic Way  
Louisville, KY 40059

Anita Pierce  
Sunflower Springs of Homosassa  
8733 West Yulee Drive  
Homosassa Springs, FL 34448

David VanHorn  
2870 S. Wentward Ct.  
Hudsonville, MI 49426

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

2025 Income and Expenses (Thru May)



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 Wayne Morris at 727-515-8051.

**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.

## July Birthdays

Bonnie Kuester	7/1
Maryanne Stewart	7/1
Kathy Olson	7/7
Harold Reber	7/7
Christopher Wright	7/7
David Porter	7/11
Phan Squires	7/14
Irmgard Timm	7/15
Carol Fleschner	7/16
Patricia Werner	7/17
Elizabeth Capell	7/22
Bob Schneider	7/23
Nina Vaznelis	7/24
Todd Holly	7/25
Lynn Cawley	7/26
Richard Posewitz	7/27



Jodi Fell	7/29
Mary Reber	7/30
Arthur Alt	7/31
Larry Barnes	7/31
Janet Jones	7/31

## July Wedding Anniversaries

Janet & Todd Holly	7/6
Jane and Scott Henkel	7/11
Nancy and Walter Johnson	7/19



## 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 **August** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) by **July 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). Therefore, we welcome all people, regardless of religious office, position, possessions, education, race, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability or other distinctions; and work to promote anti-racism. (Adopted 4/6/25)



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

