



# Happenings at NLC

## August 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

August 8 - Children's Shoe Shopping Project w/Rez House

August 23 - W.O.N. Bible Study

August 30 - Friendship Circle – Mary Kay Skin Party



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



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 August:

**Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), died 1221. Friday, August 8, 2025 -** Dominic was a Spanish priest who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.

**Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258. Sunday, August 10, 2025 -** As one of the seven deacons of the church at Rome, Lawrence was responsible for the church's financial matters and for the care of the poor. Asked by the emperor to gather the church's treasure, he presented a collection of orphans, lepers, and the like. The enraged emperor had him put to death.

**Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died 1253. Monday, August 11, 2025 -** A contemporary of Francis of Assisi, Clare and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She inspired other women to pursue spiritual goals.

**Florence Nightingale, died 1910; Clara Maass, died 1901; renewers of society. Wednesday, August 13, 2025 -** Nightingale was born in England, and horrified her wealthy family by deciding to become a nurse. She led a group of nurses in ministering in the midst of the Crimean War, and worked for hospital reform. Maass, a native of New Jersey, was also a war nurse, and volunteered as a subject for research on yellow fever. She died of the disease.

**Maximilian Kolbe, died 1941; Kaj Munk, died 1944; martyrs. Thursday, August 14, 2025** - Father Kolbe was a Franciscan priest arrested by the Nazis and confined in Auschwitz. Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources, and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man. A Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, Munk strongly denounced the Nazis who occupied Denmark in the Second World War. His sermons and articles helped to show the anti-Christian nature of the movement.

**Mary, Mother of Our Lord. Friday, August 15, 2025** - The church (including Martin Luther) honored Mary with the title theotokos, meaning "God-bearer," for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, the Magnificat, speaks eloquently of God's lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.

**Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153. Wednesday, August 20, 2025** - Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.

**Bartholomew, Apostle. Sunday, August 24, 2025** - Mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Bartholomew's name is replaced in John's gospel by Nathanael, leading many to believe that the two are different names for the same person. Little is known about his work, though some traditions place him later in India or Armenia.

**Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430. Thursday, August 28, 2025** - Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo, in present-day Algeria.

**Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400. Thursday, August 28, 2025** - Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native country. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.

**Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872. Tuesday, September 2, 2025** - Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

**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.

**ALTAR GUILD – NO MEETING IN AUGUST.** Next meeting is **September 22.** 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.**

**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](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

**AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH - FARM WORKERS SELF-HELP INCORPORATED.** At Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc. (FSH), we are driven to do our part in making the world a better place. Since 1982, we have participated in a wide range of activities that empower individuals and communities. Our Mission is to facilitate the self-development of the whole person, families, and communities toward self-reliance and personal independence. We seek to support, empower, and provide high-quality resources. Our success isn't measured in terms of wealth or profit margin, but by the value we provide to those we serve. We create an opportunity for our community members to safely organize and promote/advocate for the whole community. Farmworkers Self-Help has advocated on behalf of various issues whether that be breast cancer awareness, march for our lives, and crime survivors. Yet, FSH is much more than just an advocacy group we are committed to educating our community. We provide a plethora of resources to keep information circulating through our community and step in so that those who deserve an education get one.

To donate, please use a green envelope and mark it "August Mission of the month FSH".

**MIGRANT WORKER'S CHILDREN SHOE SHOPPING PROJECT - AUGUST 8 @ 5:00PM.** Our annual shoe shopping day will take place at the Zephyrhills WalMart, 7631 Gall Blvd, Zephyrhills, FL 33541. Please contact Linda Russo at 352-596-0673 for more information. This project is in collaboration with Resurrection Lutheran Church (Rez House) in Dade City.

**THRIVENT NEWS** - If you would like to help our neighbors in need of support, consider leading a Thrivent Action Team Project. To apply you must be a member of Thrivent, if not you can complete an application for membership. An associate membership cost is \$19.95 a year, but you will receive back seed money (credit card) up to \$250.00 for your project. A benefit member has no yearly cost and receives \$500.00 for two projects.

Three members from our congregation in July have submitted applications, were approved, and completed their projects, which were:

1. NLC Food Pantry - replenish various essential items to make a complete meal for the client's family.
2. Dawn Center - provided items listed on a wish list like, clothing, food, hygiene items, and transportation.
3. Caring K9 Therapy Dogs - purchase vests, leashes, and treats for 40 dogs who go to nursing homes, senior living facilities, and hospitals in Hernando County.

There's something special about passing on the value of generosity to others. Available action team projects are:

1. Lighthouse for the Impaired & Blind
2. Days for Girls
3. Homeless
4. Crafty Ladies
5. Trinkets & Treasures
6. Humane Society

Contact Ernie Hories (352-600-5906) or Tim Cotter (352-797-9682) for any help you might need in filling out paperwork for your project, or bringing it to a successful completion.

**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 AUGUST IS:**

Instant Coffee

*(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 have heard from some of you sharing your travel plans for the summer and I must admit I'm envious. So many beautiful places both here in the states and around the globe. We are truly blessed to enjoy the many travel opportunities. The Council wishes each of you a blessed summer and traveling mercies. A reminder to the Congregation all general Council Meetings are open meetings to our Congregational members. The meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month at 10am. Please know you are always welcome.

As some of you know the Council several months back created a "Long Term Planning Committee" designed to consider what NLC enhancements may be required as our Congregation moves forward in an ever changing world. That being said the committee has had several meetings looking at a multitude of possibilities for enhancements but there is much work and review yet needed before recommendations are presented. The Council will of course keep you posted as progress continues.

Council has also created a committee within the Council to begin reviewing specific areas of NLC Employee Handbook and make updates where necessary. The first meeting was the third week of July, and we are having another in August. We hope to have it reviewed and any necessary revisions completed before the end of the year.

During the past several months in the woods next to NLC, there have been several incidences in the homeless encampment where by the Hernando County Sheriff's Office was summoned. After a thorough investigation by the Sheriff's Department on various occasions and following some new state guidelines regarding the homeless, the Hernando County Sheriff required those living in the encampment to disperse. As a result the encampment has been removed from the woods and those individuals living there have relocated. The Property Committee in conjunction with the Homeless Committee will continue to monitor for any future issues.

Please remember NLC has established a "Family Restroom" located in the NW corner of the Narthex for guests and members who prefer or need the accommodation. June was PRIDE month and NLC joined three other Bay Area Lutheran ELCA Congregations as well as several other denominations in the largest Pride Parade in Florida. The event was hosted by St. Petersburg Pride and the attendance was between 350,000 and 400,000 individuals in support of the event and equality for all.

Given NLC has many wonderful ministries to which we are proud and committed to each one, helping hands are always needed and welcomed. The Holly's will be stepping down from leading the food pantry on September 1<sup>st</sup>. They have done an amazing job in organizing and leading this ministry. Thank you both for a job well done! A new food pantry committee was formed on July 22 and will be chaired by Gwen Mahon and co-chaired by Noel Prettyman who will continue moving this wonderful ministry forward helping those in need. "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.

**W.O.N. SUMMER BIBLE STUDY– AUGUST 23, 9:00AM.** All women are invited to Summer Bible Study! It will be held the morning of Saturday, August 23, starting with registration and pastries at 9 AM. The theme of ‘Trusting God.... Even If’ will be presented by Marylou Bonesteel.

Lunch will be served after the study :-)

We will have a signup sheet on the kiosk in August so we have some idea how much food we will need. Please come! Bring family and friends!

**NATIVITY'S CARDS R US CIRCLE - AUGUST 4TH & 11TH, 9:30AM-12:30PM.** We're looking for more of you to join our mission by tapping into your creative side and enjoying a good time with us. We provide all supplies. No experience is necessary. Check out our kiosks; some new card-makers have brought their talents and styles to our cards, for a different product! Your 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 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.** The women of Sarah Circle crochet/knit prayer shawls that are readily available to all members. If you have a family member or friend that is in need (undergoing/recovering from a medical procedure or is ill, suffering from a recent loss, or in need of prayer) you are welcome to come to church and request a prayer shawl so that you can give to them, or mail out to them. We have shawls for both women and men. When someone receives a prayer shawl, the women of Sarah Circle ministry also pray for that recipient. We are always looking for people to help with crocheting or knitting of the prayer shawls. Sarah Circle meets on the third Thursday of the month in the Youth Room at 10:00AM. Or, if you prefer, the prayer shawls can be made in your home. For information, call Peggy Sanders at 352-382-1781.

## **FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, SATURDAY, AUGUST 30.**

Friendship Circle members and other friends will be treated to a Mary Kay facial and makeup party on Saturday, August 30, from 10:00am to Noon in Winemiller Hall. Mary Kay beauty consultant, Betty Lou Bernhardt, will be doing skin care profiles on each of the guests. If anyone chooses to make a purchase, the first set or item will be given a special discount. Afterwards, we'll have devotions and a short meeting at Nativity before leaving for lunch (looking

fabulous ) at the Olive Garden restaurant, 14415 Cortez Blvd. 34613. Space is limited to 20 guests. All are welcome. For further information and to RSVP (by Sunday August 24), please contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

**CLUB 75 LUNCHEON - AUGUST (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.

## **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE FROM CAROL ANDERSON**

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.

**NATIVITY 2025 PHOTO DIRECTORY - Beginning Sunday, August 3,** copies of the new 2025 Photo Directory will be available in the narthex on Sunday mornings as well as in the office Monday-Friday from 9am-12pm. In addition, if you would like to have it sent to you electronically, please send an email to [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) and we will send a PDF copy to you. This was a huge project, and we would like to extend a special thank you to Art and Diane Alt for spearheading the effort and big thank you to everyone who helped support this project. Also, we would appreciate a small donation to help offset the costs of the special paper stock that needed to be ordered as well as for the printing.

**TRINKETS & TREASURES - Sale Dates Friday, Oct. 3rd and Saturday, Oct. 4th.** We have started accepting items for donations only on Mondays from 9am - 12pm (no collection on Labor Day Sept. 1) and Tuesdays 1pm-4pm. Last day for donations will be Tuesday, Sept. 23. If you can help us sort and price items during any of those days/times, please join us. If Mondays/Tuesdays do not work for you to drop off your donations, please call either Janet Jones (352-515-3931) or Evelyn Galli (516-909-3119) and we can see if we can arrange a time that is convenient for all of us. We would appreciate it if you do NOT drop off items when we are not at church. Please consider helping us as it's a great time for fellowship as we work and you might even find a bargain or two prior to the sale.

# Crafty Christmas

Over the coming months, you'll hear from friends in our congregation who participated in last year's Crafty Christmas. During select Sunday Temple Talks, they'll share their personal stories of how this experience touched their lives. These testimonies will offer inspiration and encouragement as we continue living out Nativity Lutheran Church's mission of carrying light and love to the world – this time through participation in Crafty Christmas 25. Please sign up in the narthex, talk or text with June Kristoferson at 352-650-0036 or Vicki Page at 352-210-8407.

**Read the transcript of the testimony given by Al Wright on July 20, 2025**

**"Behold how good and how plentiful it is for  
brethren to dwell together in unity"**

Psalm 133:1

When Crafty Christmas reached out last year for members to join the team, I graciously accepted the invitation and was designated an Ambassador.

My task was to greet visitors and patrons, hand out fliers with information, direct them to the location of vendors and displays, and to give an overview of the premises making them feel much at home.

"To dwell together in unity" we must first remember that all good things come from God, the first is LOVE, and secondly, we must be at peace with ourselves and with each other.

One must maintain that inner peace and spirit because, when we share our positive message with others, be it verbally or by telepathy, we usually get similar feedback as they return that welcoming smile or comforting word.

Bearing that in mind, my obligation was to welcome everyone with love, at times using a little humor as they arrived at Nativity. When they were leaving, I also took time to thank them for their support on behalf of Nativity Lutheran and the vendors.

For me, it was not only welcoming patrons but an opportunity to see the creative talents of the vendors which I greatly appreciated.

The refrain of one of the hymns we sing is.

"We are called to act for justice  
We are called to love tenderly  
We are called to serve on another  
To walk humbly with God"



Many hands lighten the load,  
and you are invited to be a member of the Crafty Christmas **T E A M** because,  
**T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**iracles.

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

## 2025 Income and Expenses (Thru June)



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.





## MEMBER UPDATES

**New Address:** Bob and Cheryann Schneider  
10 Pepper Court  
Homosassa, FL 34446

**Dearly Departed:** Irene Froelich (7/27/2025)

*Condolence Cards:* Nancy Ward (daughter)  
2254 Dove Hollow Road  
Spring Hill, FL 34606

OR

Gary Holst (son)  
3734 Mulligan Ct.  
Rapid City, SD 57703

## August Birthdays

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Robert Bonesteel       | 8/2  |
| Timothy Cotter         | 8/2  |
| Connie Wendrzycki      | 8/2  |
| Peggy Sanders          | 8/3  |
| Michael Brennan        | 8/5  |
| Theodore Hoffmann, Jr. | 8/8  |
| Candice Kochounian     | 8/9  |
| Mary Smart             | 8/9  |
| Zachery Burchhardt     | 8/11 |
| Joe Kleiber            | 8/12 |
| Victoria Page          | 8/13 |
| Tom Anderson           | 8/14 |
| Jane Henkel            | 8/14 |
| Ellen Lapinski         | 8/14 |
| Nancy Salzbach         | 8/14 |
| Claude Major           | 8/16 |
| Wayne Morris           | 8/17 |
| Jean Drach             | 8/18 |



|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Elizabeth Deon    | 8/22 |
| Denise Gearghy    | 8/22 |
| Kristine Kopitzke | 8/22 |
| Robert Oliver Sr. | 8/22 |
| Kathy Drach       | 8/24 |
| Susan Larsen      | 8/24 |
| Giuseppe Mattei   | 8/25 |
| Patti Cotter      | 8/27 |
| LuAnn Cavanagh    | 8/28 |
| Tamara Wahlay     | 8/28 |

## August Wedding Anniversaries

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Frani & Larry Barnes        | 8/2  |
| Joan & Philip Phoel         | 8/3  |
| Michele & Robert Oliver Sr. | 8/8  |
| Julie & Gary Hopkins        | 8/15 |
| Gloria & Al Wright          | 8/19 |
| Carol & Kendall White       | 8/21 |
| Karen & Clarence Crawford   | 8/22 |
| Diane & Art Alt             | 8/24 |
| Ann & Richard Wright        | 8/31 |



## 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 **September** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email to [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) by **August 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.nlcwww.org](http://www.nlcwww.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.

